さくらんぼシンドローム

「クピドの悪戯II」

Cherry Syndrome

11

Taku Kitazaki Presents

北崎 拓

Young Sunday Comics

ローマ神話に登場する
クピド（＝Cupid／キューピッド）が、
気まぐれに放つ矢には、
男女の心を自在に操る不思議な力がある。
黄金の矢で射られると、どんな人間も恋心を起こし、
鉛の矢で射られると、どんな恋心も醒めてしまう。
この時代のクピドが、
もしも悪戯心を起こしたら……

Young Sunday Comics

――前巻まで。

それぞれの愛を確かめ合った
阿川、れな、麻生の3人は、
一生一緒に生きていくことを誓う。
だがその直後、れなを救える
もう一人の酵素の持ち主
加瀬栄子が現れ、
3人の関係はもろくも
崩れ去ってしまう。
阿川の元を飛び出したれな、
れなとの関係を絶とうとする麻生、
そして阿川は……

さくらんぼシンドローム

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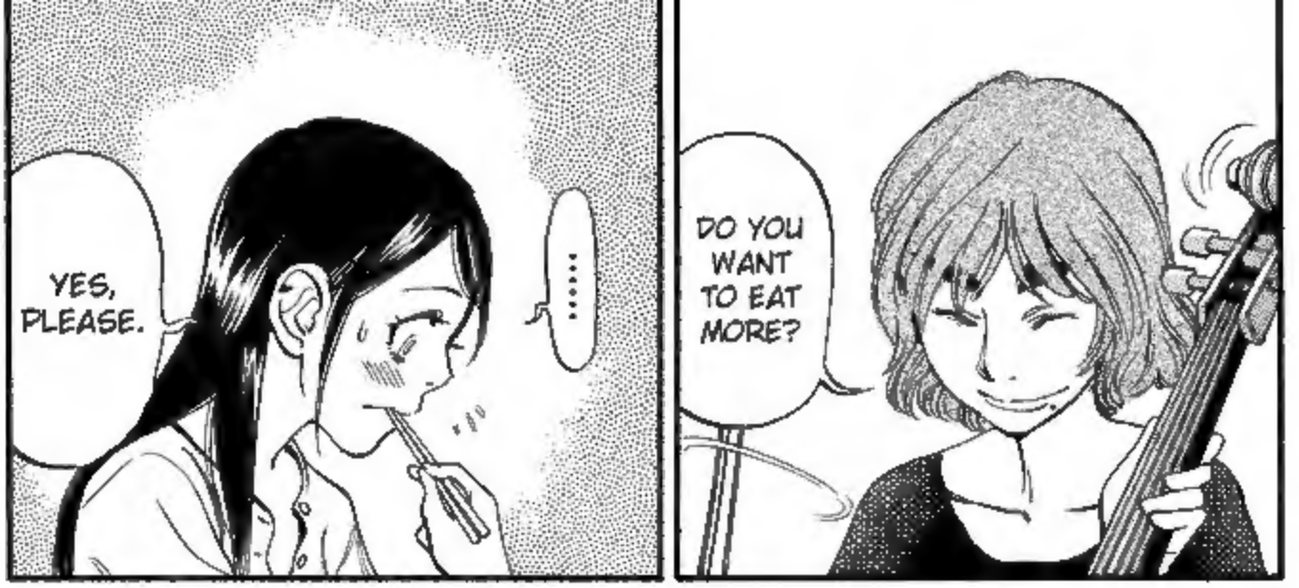
北崎拓
Taku Kitazaki Presents

Chapter 92:

How Lewd♡

SFX: CHEW
SFX: MUNCH
OH, WHAT A GOOD SOUND.
SFX: GROWL
SFX: GROWL


YES, PLEASE.
.....
DO YOU WANT TO EAT MORE?

THIS IS THE SECOND DAY SINCE I MOVED TO KASE EIKO-SAN'S PLACE. SHE'S BEEN FEEDING ME NO END...
THANK YOU.
I'VE COOKED SO MUCH, HELP YOURSELF TO AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.

I JUST NEED A KISS... AND I WON'T NEED TO EAT SO MUCH LIKE NOW...
BUT WE HAVEN'T EXCHANGED THE ACS ENZYME (KISSED), NOT EVEN ONCE.

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO ASK FOR IT AFTER ALL.
SHE'S SINCE BEEN KEEPING HER WORD.

I'LL HELP ONLY WHEN YOU NEED IT.
I KNOW IT'S AWKWARD FOR US TO SUDDENLY HAVE TO KISS EACH OTHER, EVEN THOUGH WE'RE WOMEN.

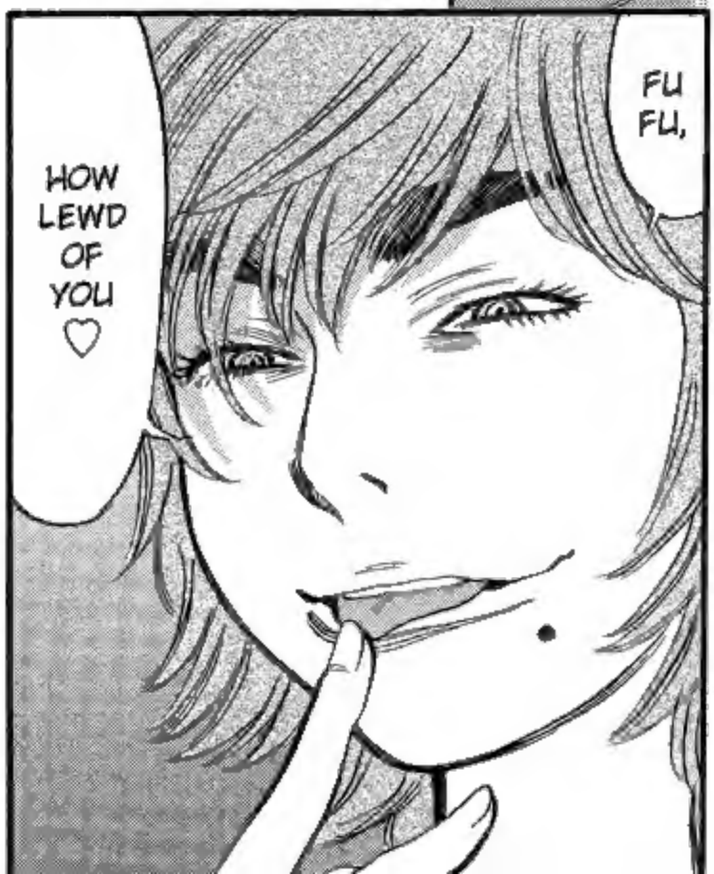
WHAT'S WRONG?
IF I DON'T GET ANY MORE ACS ENZYME,
I'LL SHRINK AGAIN...

SFX: PEEK

I-IT'S NOTH-ING.
THANK YOU.
YOU'VE BEEN STEALING GLANCES AT ME FOR A WHILE.
HERE'S YOUR MEAL.

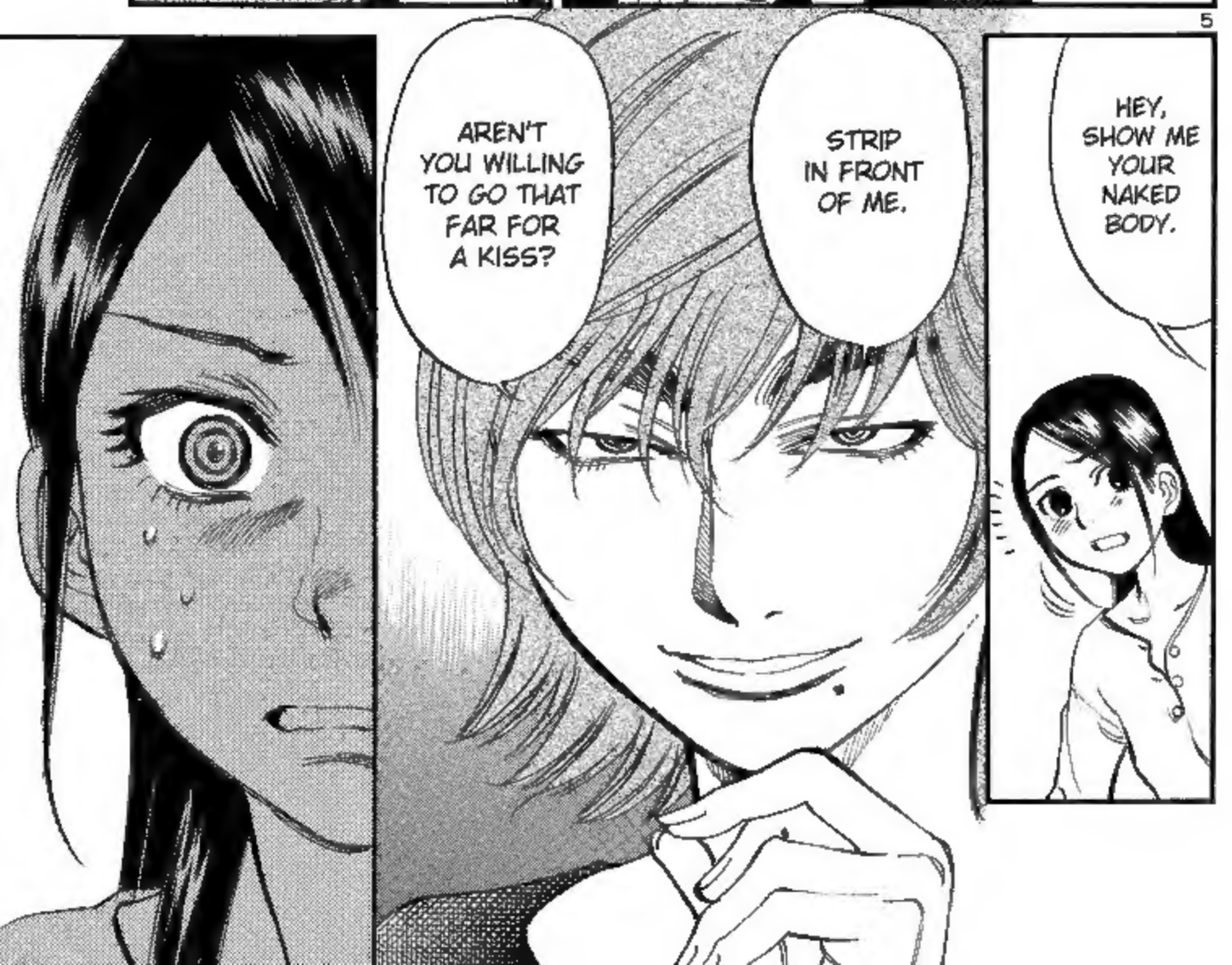
.....

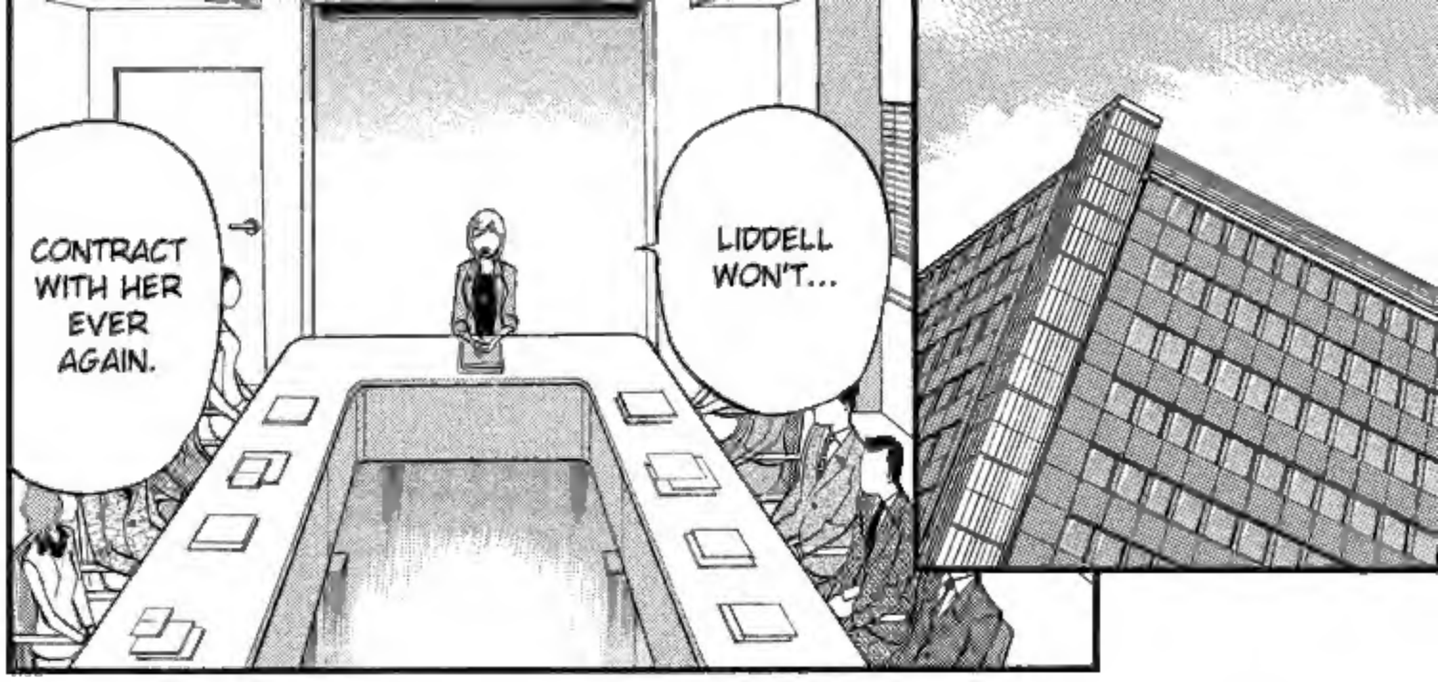
DO YOU WANT ME TO KISS YOU?


FU FU,
HOW LEWD OF YOU ♡

HUH?
TH-THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS THINKING...

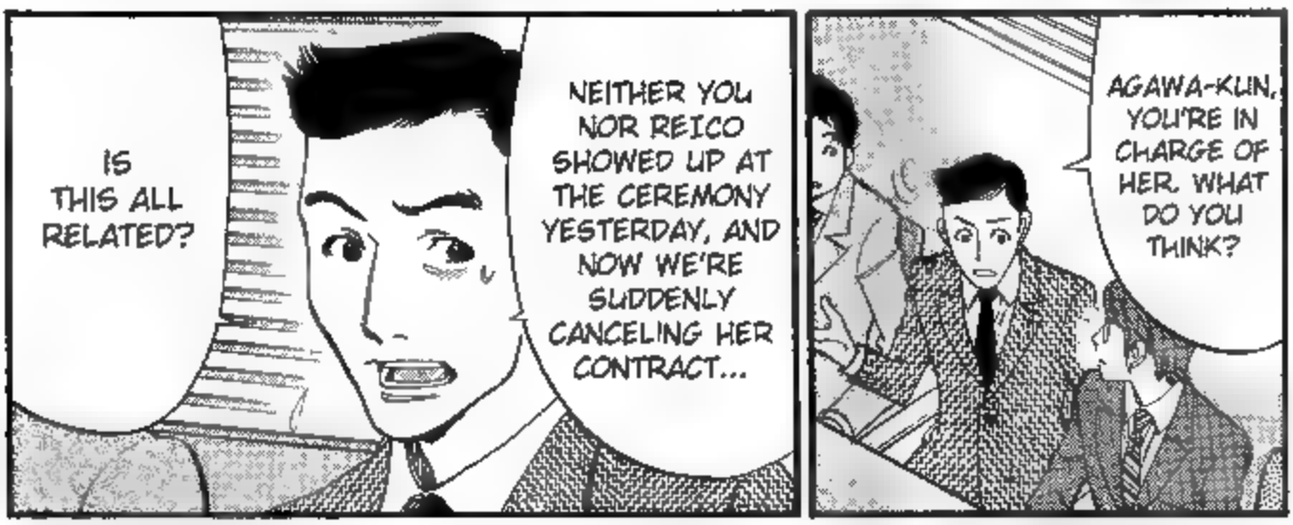
.....
YOU JUST GAVE ME A DISGUSTED LOOK.


AREN'T YOU WILLING TO GO THAT FAR FOR A KISS?
STRIP IN FRONT OF ME.
HEY, SHOW ME YOUR NAKED BODY.

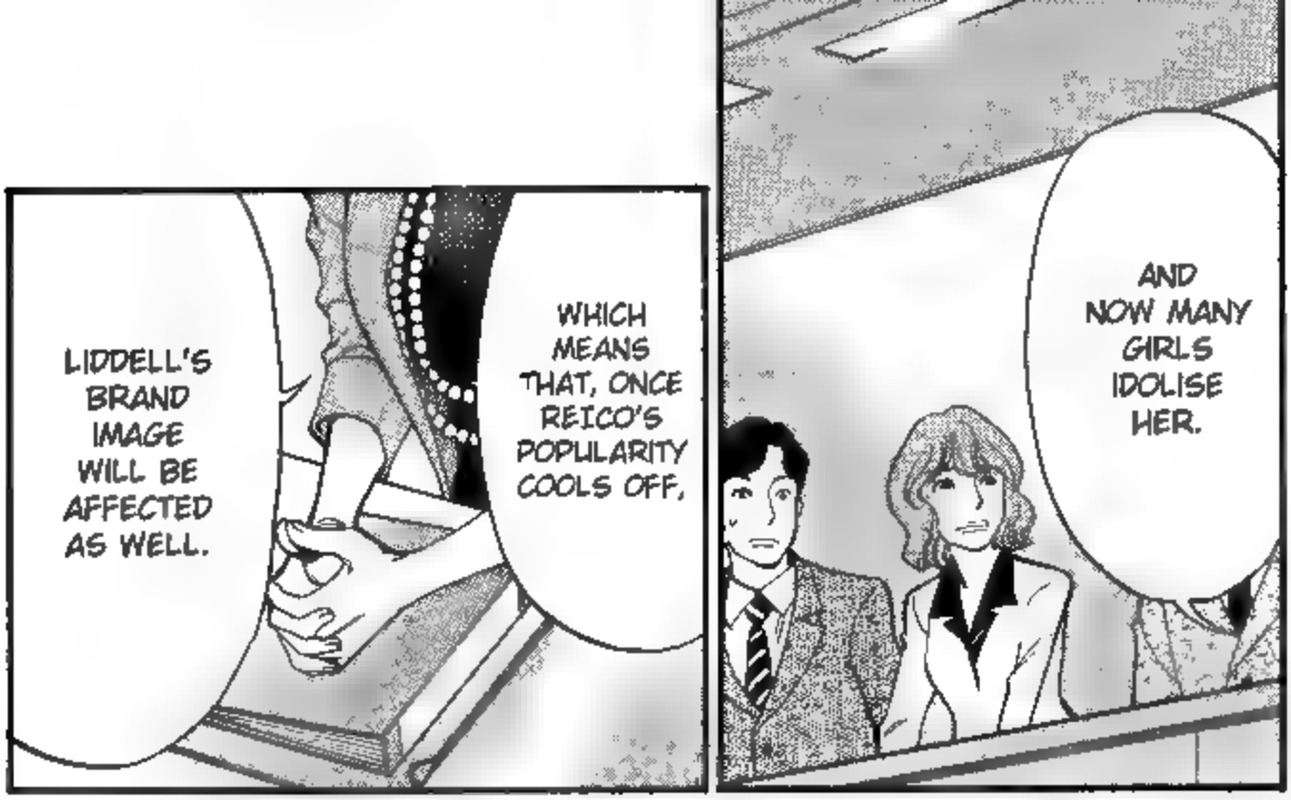


SFX: COMMOTION

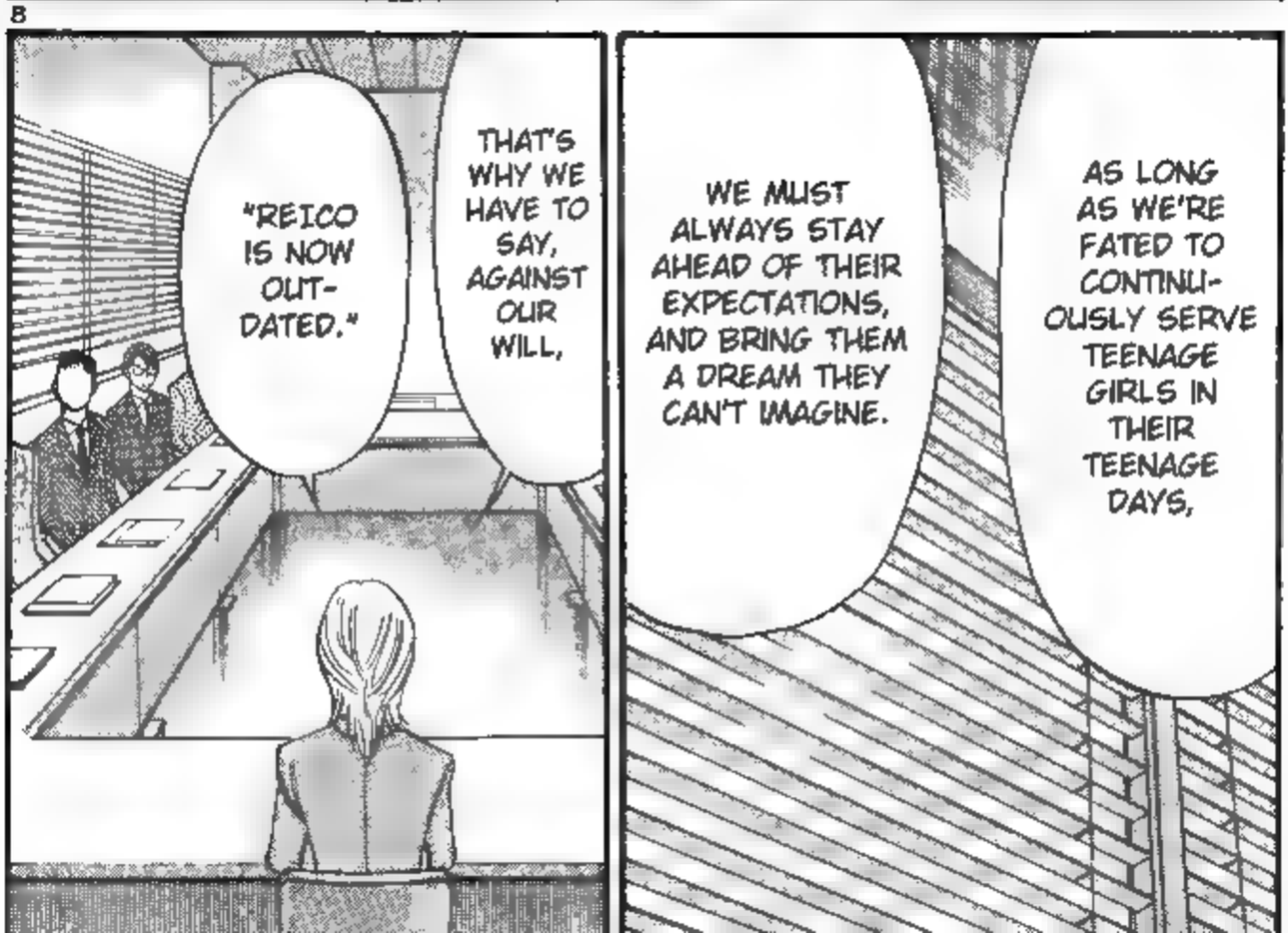
SHE'S BEEN GETTING NATIONAL ATTENTION SINCE SHE DROPPED THE EXPLOSIVE STATEMENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, AND MOST OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELL DISPOSED TOWARD HER,
SO THE SALES HAVE BEEN SOARING.
WHY ARE WE CANCELING THE CONTRACT WITH REICO NOW OF ALL TIMES?


NEITHER YOU NOR REICO SHOWED UP AT THE CEREMONY YESTERDAY, AND NOW WE'RE SUDDENLY CANCELING HER CONTRACT...
IS THIS ALL RELATED?
AGAWA-KUN, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF HER. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WE CAN'T DENY THAT REICO HAS PLAYED A GREAT ROLE...
IN LIDDELL'S RAPID GROWTH.
WELL ...
NO,
LET ME EXPLAIN.


AND NOW MANY GIRLS IDOLISE HER.
WHICH MEANS THAT, ONCE REICO'S POPULARITY COOLS OFF,
LIDDELL'S BRAND IMAGE WILL BE AFFECTED AS WELL.

GIRLS TURN INTO WOMEN...
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.


AS LONG AS WE'RE FATED TO CONTINUI-OUSLY SERVE TEENAGE GIRLS IN THEIR TEENAGE DAYS,
WE MUST ALWAYS STAY AHEAD OF THEIR EXPECTATIONS, AND BRING THEM A DREAM THEY CAN'T IMAGINE.
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO SAY, AGAINST OUR WILL,
"REICO IS NOW OUT-DATED."

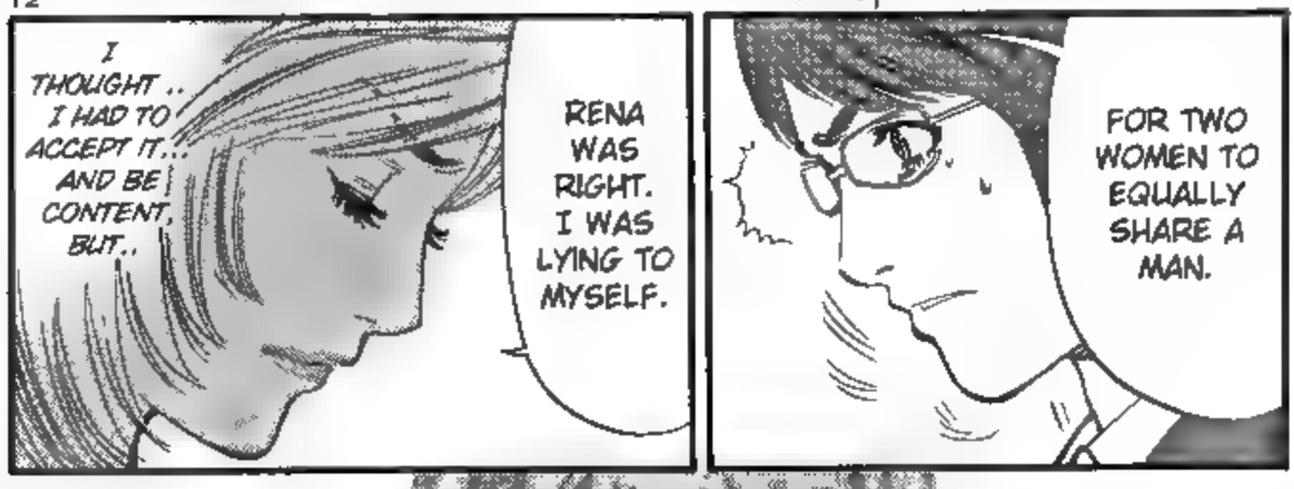
SUCH A CONVINCING LIE WHILE KEEPING A STRAIGHT FACE!
GET OUT ALRE-ADY!
I WANT TO PREPARE A PLAN AND SOMETHING POSITIVE!
"NEXT DEADLINE IS WELL HOW ABOUT THIS WEEKEND?"
THIS WEEKEND?!

HOW'S YOUR COLD?
WELL,
I'M BETT-ER. SORT OF
I SEE.
.....
IS THERE NOTHING ELSE YOU WANT FROM ME?
WHEN YOU'RE WELL,
I WANT YOU TO LEAVE MY PLACE.
SFX: TAP

I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR WORK.
I WISH YOU LUCK WITH MARKETING.
YOU'VE DONE A GREAT JOB SO FAR.
WE DON'T NEED A MANAGER FOR REICO ANY MORE.
WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE AT THAT MOMENT?
I WOULD'VE DONE THE SAME THING IF IT HAD BEEN YOU RUNNING OUT.
AS I SAID,
ONE OF YOU RAN OUT IN TEARS,
WAS I WRONG TO WORRY ABOUT HER?
THE TWO OF YOU FOUGHT ON YOUR OWN WHILE I WAS SLEEPING.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT THING FOR ME TO DO WAS.

DIDN'T WE PROMISE RENA THAT THE THREE OF US WOULD STAY TOGETHER FOREVER?

IT'S UNNAT-URAL...


I THOUGHT .. I HAD TO ACCEPT IT... AND BE CONTENT, BUT..
RENA WAS RIGHT. I WAS LYING TO MYSELF.
FOR TWO WOMEN TO EQUALLY SHARE A MAN.

I REAL-ISED IT:
WHEN THAT WOMAN APPEARED,

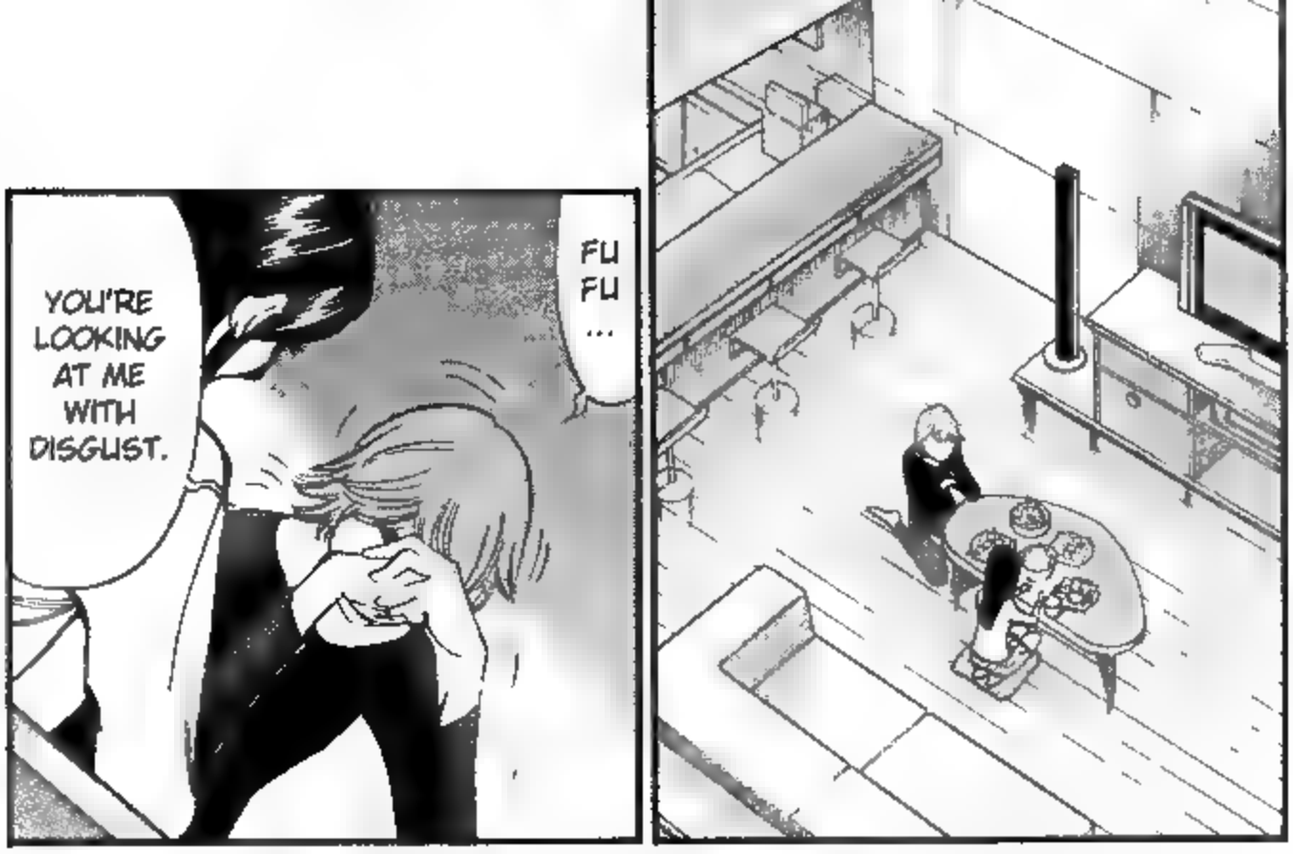
You're jealous of the two of us, aren't you?
I know that you're happy because the string of fate between Agawa-san and me is on the verge of breaking.
MY FEELINGS OF LOVE
THROB
RENA HAD EXPECTED.
WERE MORE TRIVIAL THAN. .

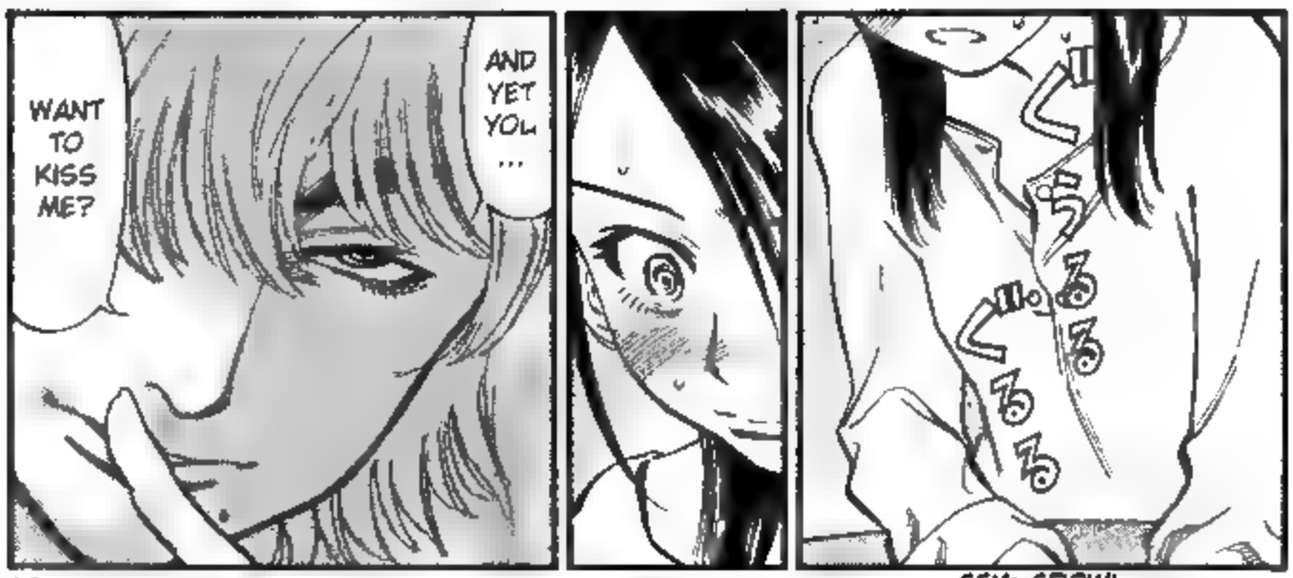
TO KASE EIKO.
RENA'S NOW GONE...
BUT ..

AND MADE MANY MEMORIES.
WE'VE LIVED TOGE-THER FOR A YEAR.
NOW IT'S JUST BETWEEN US.

SUP-POSE ...
KASE EIKO SUDDENLY DIES, FOR ANY REASON...
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THEM.

DON'T YOU WANT TO TAKE HOME BY THE HAND?

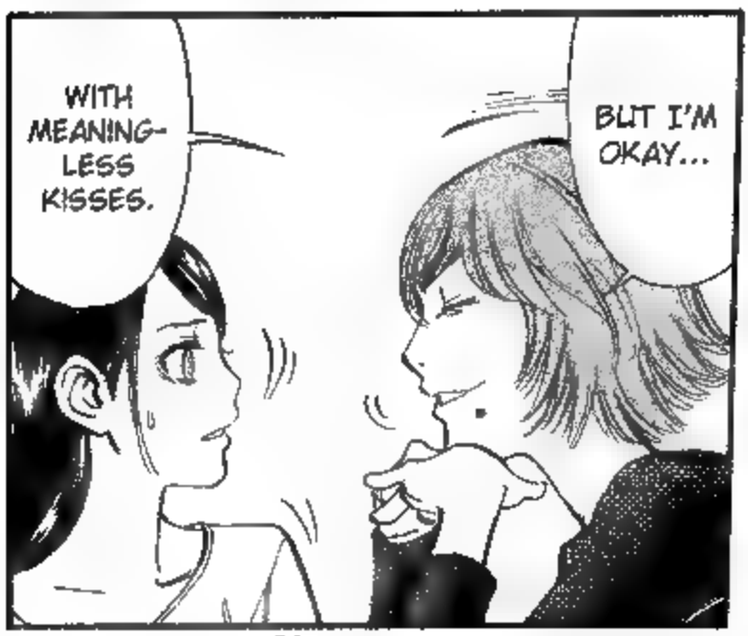

FU FU ...
YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME WITH DISGUST.


AND YET YOU ...
WANT TO KISS ME?

SFX: GROWL

DID IT HURT YOU? THAT A KISS WITH THAT GUY CARRIED MORE MEANING THAN JUST TAKING THE ENZYME...
BECAUSE YOU'VE BONDED WITH THE TWO OF THEM?
DID YOU THINK YOU COULD BECOME THEIR EQUAL...
IF YOU STAYED WITH ME, FOR WHOM YOU FEEL NO LOVE?

AS LONG AS YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR DISEASE WITH MY ENZYME.
YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN BE THEIR PARTNER...
17
YOU'RE FAR MORE REPULSIVE.
IN MY EYES,


WITH MEANING-LESS KISSES.
BUT I'M OKAY...

!!
AND I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE YOU ANY.
I DON'T WANT LOVE FROM YOU,

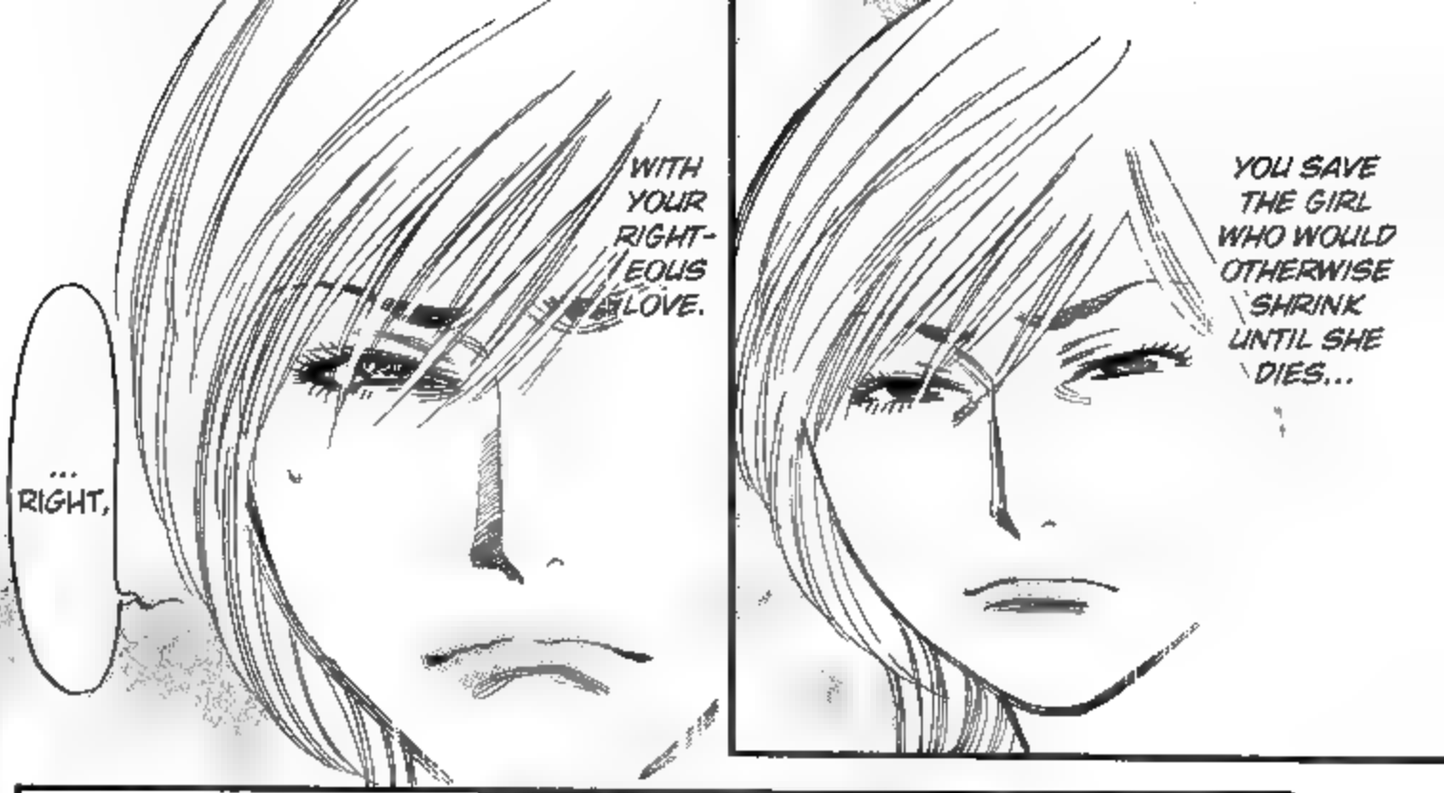
SFX: FLINCH

TH-THIS WOMAN IS CREEPY!
SFX GROPE
19
SFX: SLAP
SFX: DASH
SFX RUN
SFX BUMP!
SFX: GRAB!

HELP ME!
SOME BODY-
DIDN'T I TELL YOU ON THE FIRST NIGHT...
THAT THIS ROOM'S SOUND-PROOF?
I CAN HAVE MY WAY WITH THE FAMOUS REICO-CHAN.
THIS IS SO BAD. ♡

HELP ME, AGAWA-SAN!
HELP ME!

SO YOU'LL TAKE RENA'S HAND AGAIN


WITH YOUR RIGHT-EOUS LOVE.
YOU SAVE THE GIRL WHO WOULD OTHERWISE SHRINK UNTIL SHE DIES...
... RIGHT,

WHAT I TOLD YOU.
I DO ALSO REMEM-BER...

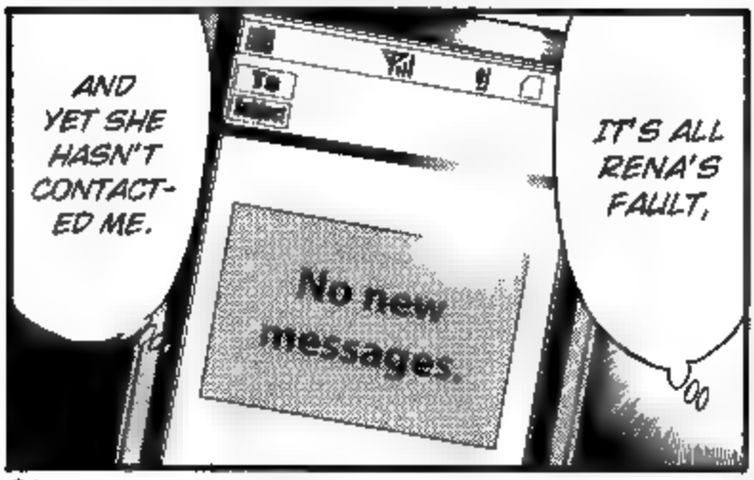
OUR RELATIONSHIP ONLY LASTS AS LONG AS I SEE FIT.

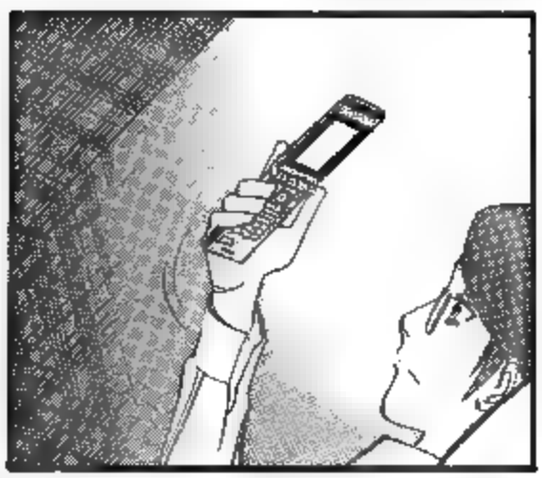
SFX: CLOSE!

SO I STAYED ALONE IN A BUSI-NESS HOTEL.
I DIDN'T WANT TO EXPLAIN TO ANY OF MY FRIENDS EITHER.
I COULDN'T FIND ANY STRENGTH TO GO BACK TO THE APARTMENT THAT DAY.
AND FIND A ROOM.
I'LL PACK UP WHILE SHE ISN'T THERE,
I'LL SKIP WORK TOMOR-ROW.

I ALWAYS PREPARED A WAY OUT,
KEPT MY DIST-ANCE.
I'VE BEEN NEVER SERIOUS ABOUT A WOMAN BEFORE HER.

WELL, IT WASN'T OFFICIAL ANYWAY.
I EVEN TRANSFER-RED TO A DIFFERENT DEPARTMENT FOR HER SAKE, BUT I'M JUST TROUBLE FOR HER IN THE END.


AND YET SHE HASN'T CONTACT-ED ME.
No new messages.
IT'S ALL RENA'S FAULT,



SO I LET YOU LEAD ME AROUND AS YOU PLEASED.
YOU REMINDED ME OF THE TRAUMA FROM MY TEENAGE DAYS THAT I'D FORGOTTEN,

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE MET YOU.
RENA,

I'D NEVER HAVE LOVED A WYMAN!

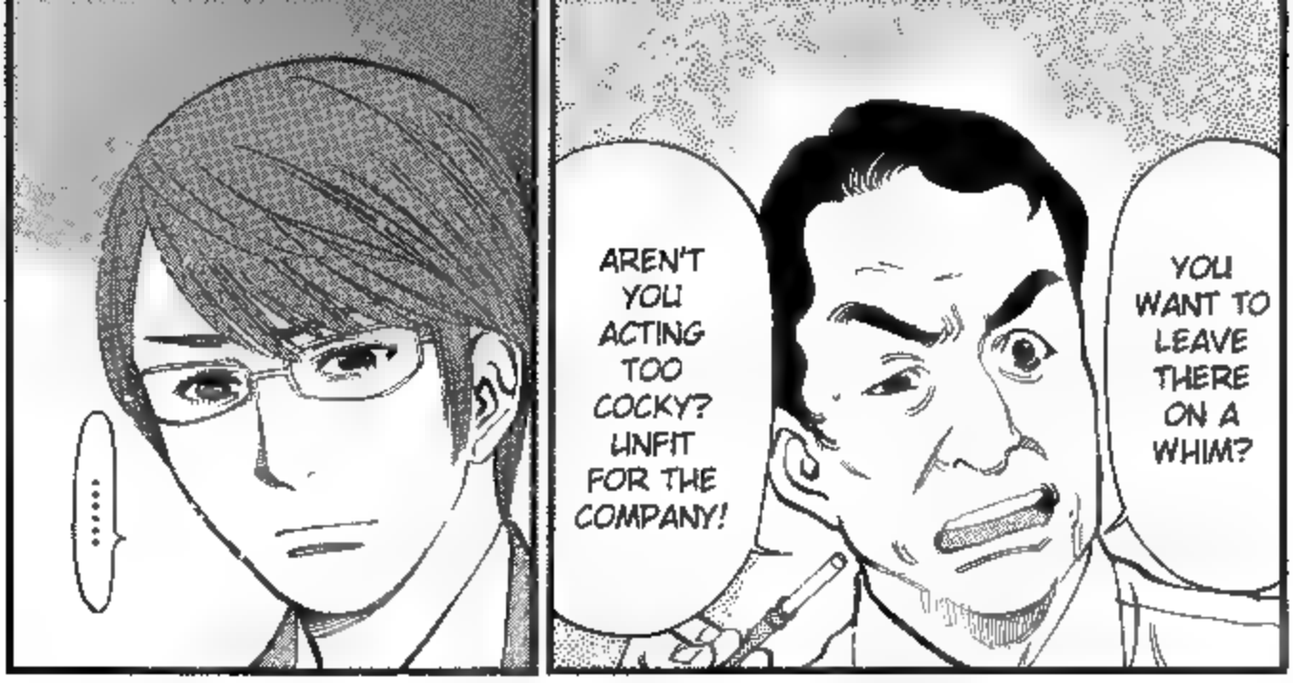
I'm moving out.
Please dispose
of leftover things
as you like.

Agawa

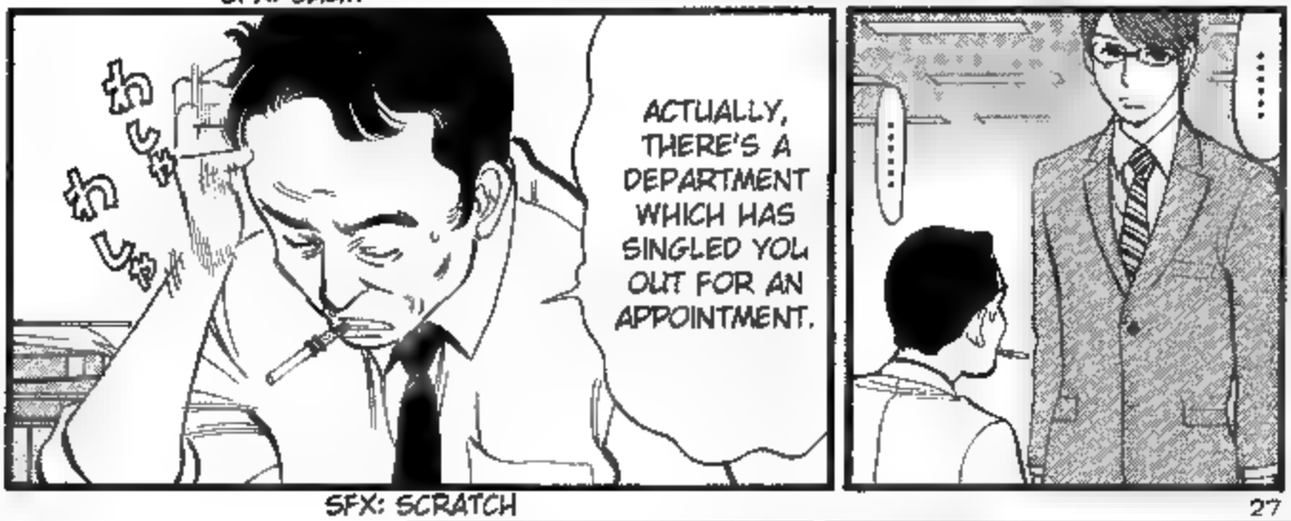
DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE LIDDELL?

NOW THAT THEY'VE CANCELED THEIR CONTRACT WITH REICO, I'M LEFT WITH NO ROLE.

YES.



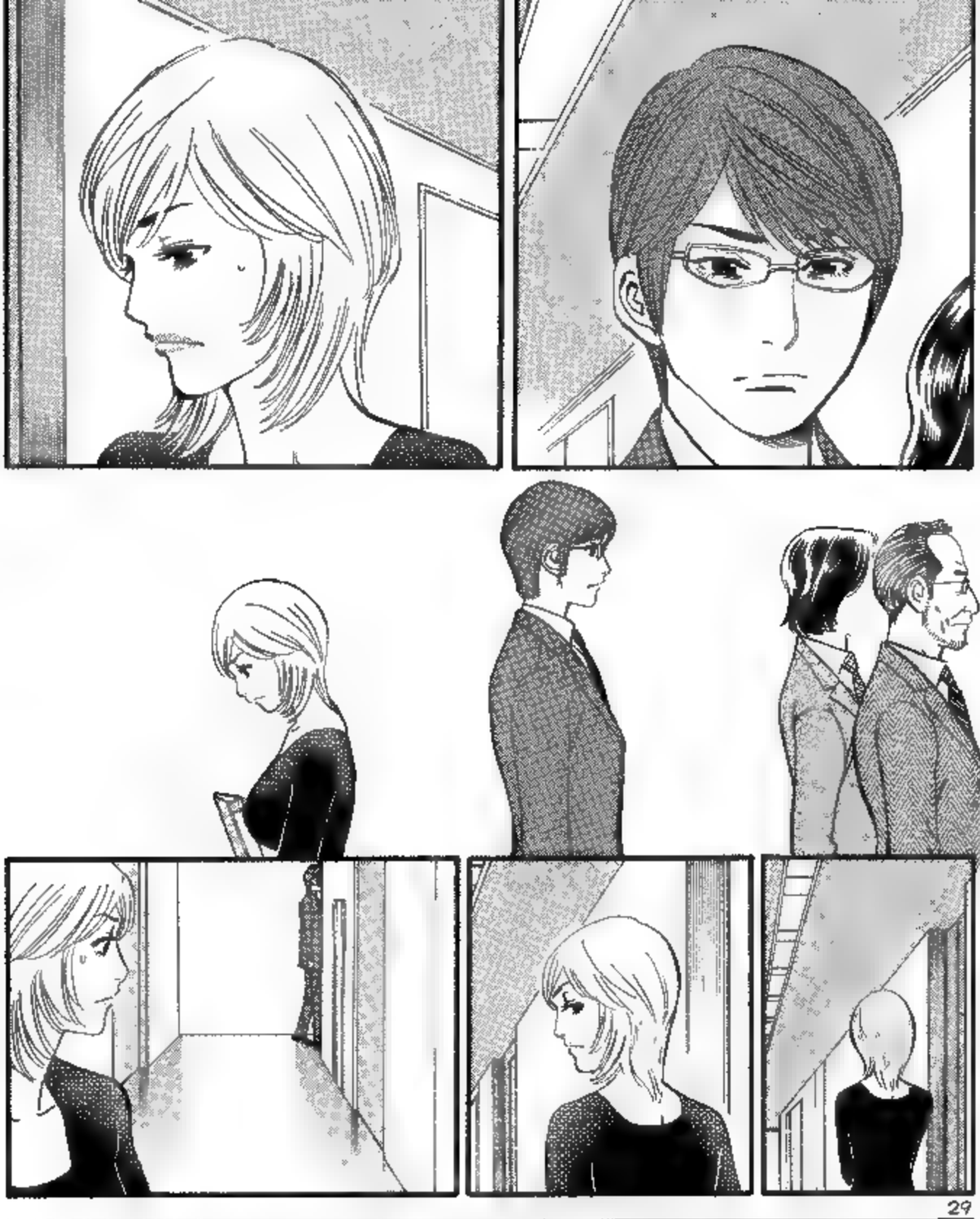
SFX: CALM

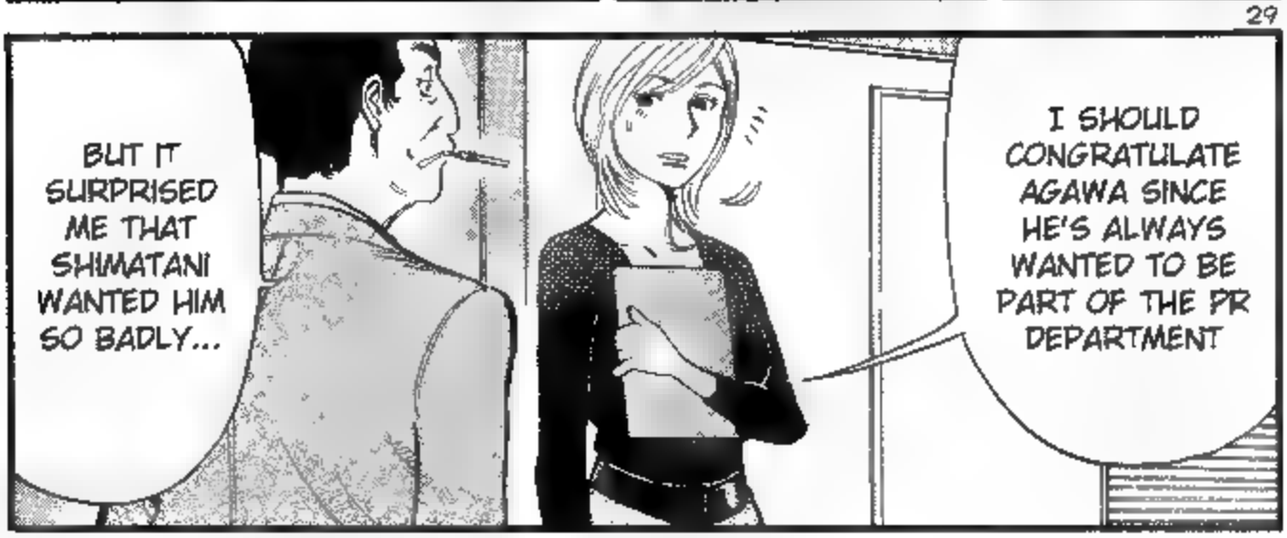


SFX: SCRATCH

SFX: RUSTLE

DID THE PR DEPARTMENT TAKE THAT AGAWA JERK THIS TIME?
Wh— Wha
SHIMATANI-SAN WAS ASKING ABOUT AGAWA ONE TIME
I GUESS HE'D ALREADY PICKED HIM BACK THEN
!!
I HEAR HE'S A VICE PROD-UCER NOW
!!
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT!




I SHOULD CONGRATULATE AGAWA SINCE HE'S ALWAYS WANTED TO BE PART OF THE PR DEPARTMENT
BUT IT SURPRISED ME THAT SHIMATANI WANTED HIM SO BADLY...

DOES HE HAVE A FLAIR FOR PR IN YOUR EYES?
.....
WELL ?
IT SEEMS HE'S MISTAKEN THAT HIS STRENGTH LIES IN SHREWD-NESS...

BUT I THINK HE'S MORE OF A FORTHRIGHT MAN WHO EARNS TRUST THROUGH HIS WORK OVER TIME.
.....

OKAY
AH~

.....
SFX GROWL

I'M BEING A GOOD GIRL LIKE YOU TOLD ME.
I WASN'T BEING DEFIANT.
SFX: GROWL
YOUR DEFIANT ATTITUDE ISN'T CUTE...
GIVE ME A BRE-AK
SFX: MUNCH

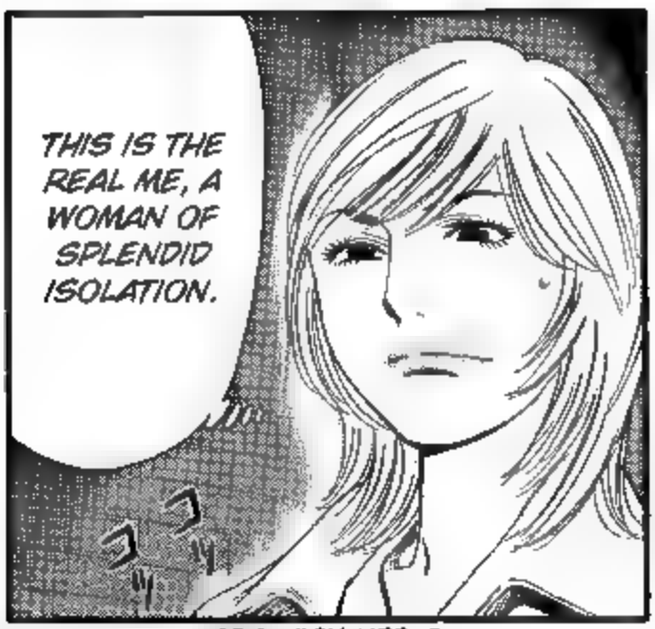
PLEASE GIVE ME... THE ACS ENZYME.
IT'S THE CONDITION YOUR OFFER CAME WITH IN THE FIRST PLACE.

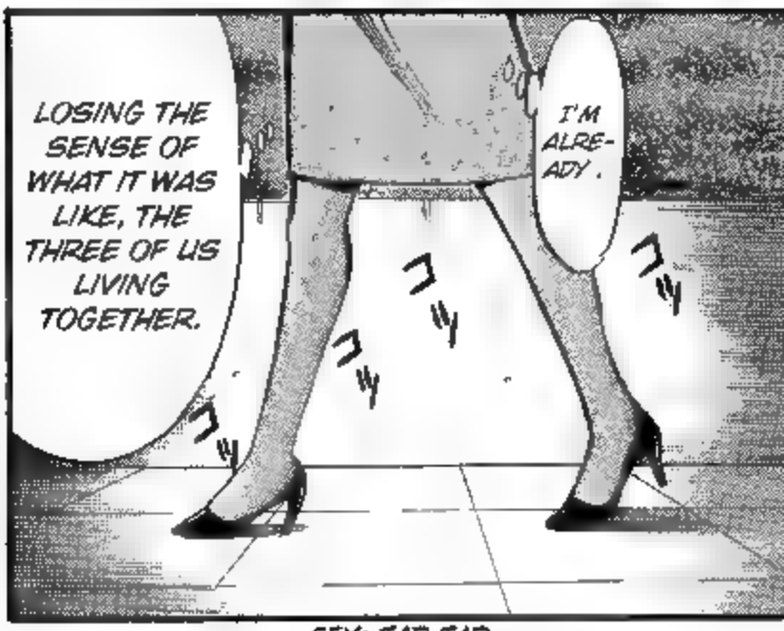
SFX GROWL

I ENVY THAT YOU CAN STAY YOUNG FOREVER.
I'LL SHRINK SOON AT THIS RATE!
YOUR EYES
I'M TALK-ING ABOUT ...

IT SOUNDS LIKE FUN TO WATCH YOU SHRINK RIGHT HERE.
RIGHT ...
.....
.....!!

LIDDELL GOES STRONG EVEN IN RENA'S ABSENCE.
AGAWA-KUN WAS TAKEN BY SHIMATANI.
IT'S BEEN ABOUT TWO MONTHS SINCE RENA DISAPPEARED.





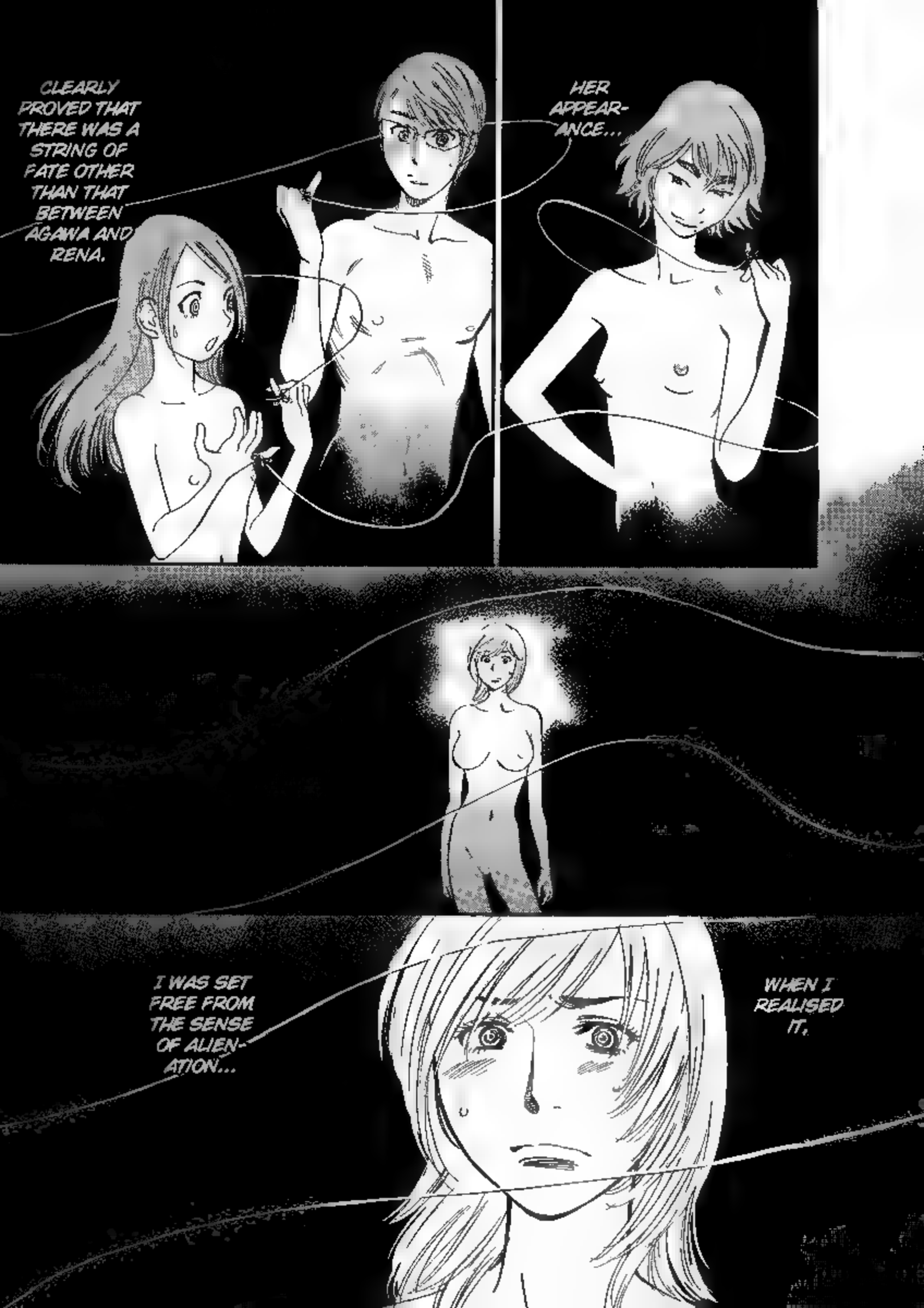
SFX: HIGH HEELS

SFX: TAP TAP

SFX: GUST TREMBLE

SFX SHINE
SFX CLICK
I'VE PICKED UP A HABIT OF KEEPING EVERY LIGHT IN MY HOUSE ON
NOW THAT I'M BACK TO LIVING ALONE
SFX POMP!

TO ALWAYS HAVING SOMEONE SOMEWHERE IN MY HOUSE...
TO THINK THAT I'VE BECOME THOROUGHLY ACCUSTOMED ...
IF THAT WOMAN HADN'T SHOWN UP...
I WONDER WHETHER THOSE DAYS WOULD'VE LASTED FOREVER ...


CLEARLY PROVED THAT THERE WAS A STRING OF FATE OTHER THAN THAT BETWEEN AGAWA AND RENA.
HER APPEAR-ANCE...
I WAS SET FREE FROM THE SENSE OF ALIEN-ATION...
WHEN I REALISED IT,

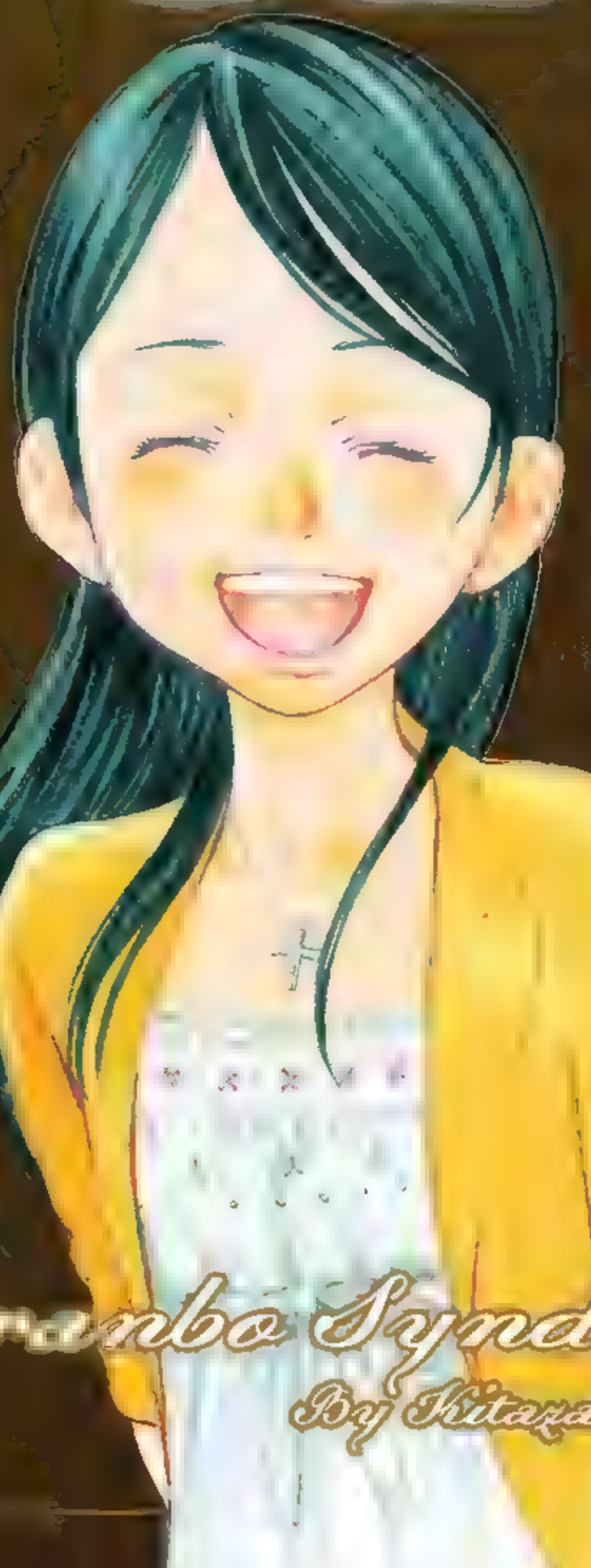
THE SENSE I HAD BEEN DESPERATELY HIDING AND SUPPRESSING.
THAT I WAS THE ONLY ONE NOT BOUND BY THE STRING OF FATE OUT OF AGAWA, RENA AND MYSELF,
I POURED OUT MY JEALOUSY TOWARD RENA.
BUT, THE SMART RENA SAW THROUGH ME.
You won't be able to live without depending on Kase Eiko, in the end.

AND DECIDED TO GET ALONG WITH HER IN A LIFE FOR THE THREE OF US...
THE MOMENT I COMPRO-MISED WITH REALITY AS WELL AS MY FEELINGS, JUST LIKE RENA DID,
ISN'T IT JUST TOO CONVE-NIENT?
BUT KASE EIKO IS A CARRIER OF THE ACS ENZYME THAT DR. SENDOUJI AT NISHIZAWA UNI-VERSITY HOSPITAL FOUND!
WELL,
SHE SHOWED UP!
39
NO. THERE'S NO REASON THE DOCTOR WOULD-
WHAT IF KASE EIKO IS LYING ABOUT HAVING THE ACS ENZYME?
BUT ISN'T IT TOO MUCH OF A COINCIDENCE THAT ANOTHER CARRIER OF THE ACS ENZYME WAS MIRACU-LOUSLY DETECTED?
I MUST BE OVER-THINKING BECAUSE SHE APPEARED AT THE RIGHT TIME TO BREAK US UP...
NO...

BUT
...
NO WAY!

Cleaning:
Zujids
Raws:
YandereS, Shiratori
Typesetting:
mesdagar
Translation:
anonymous preferred
Redraw:
Zujids
Proofreading:
Volandum

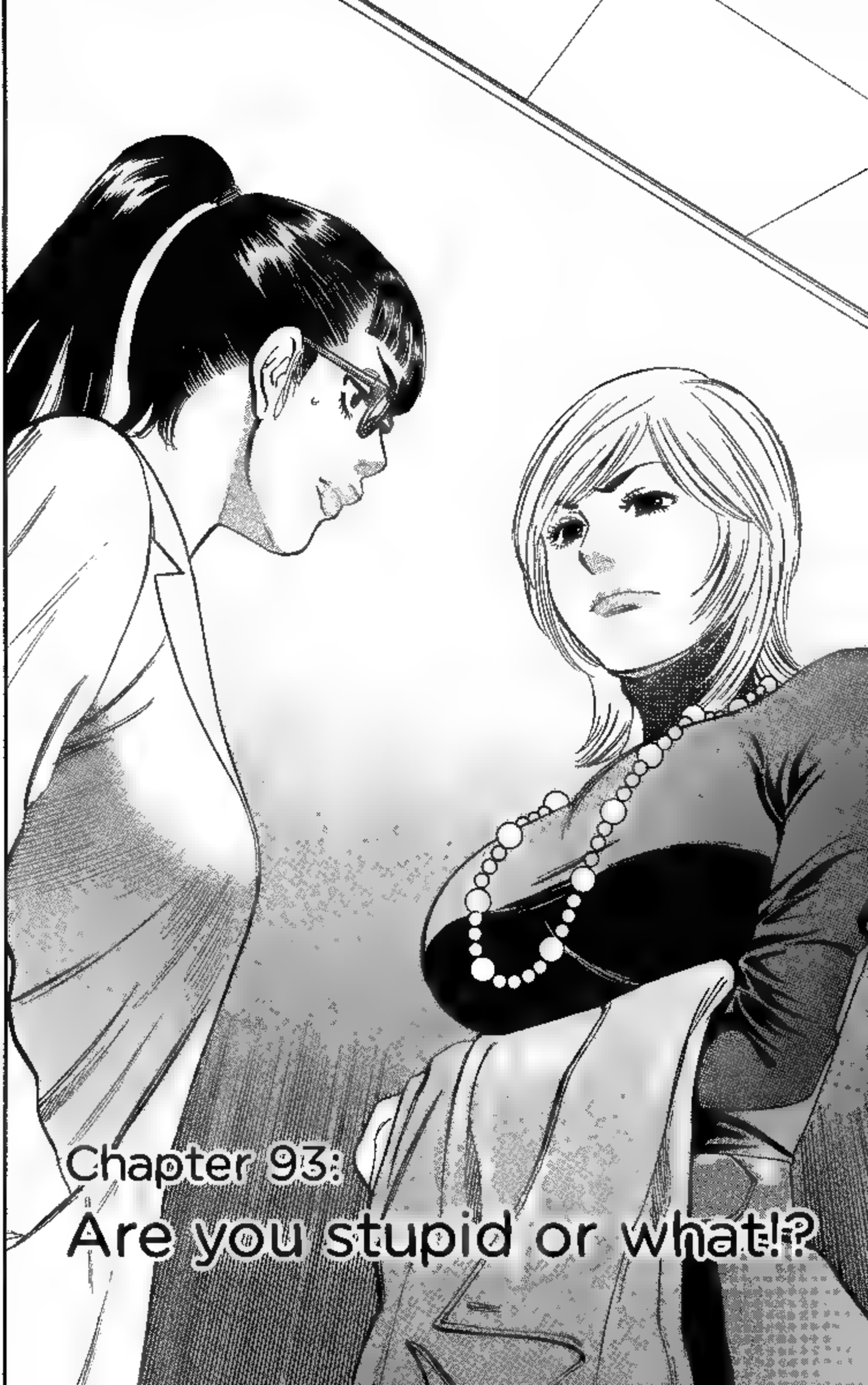
11



Sakurambo Syndrome

By Kitazaki Tooru

THAT YOU WANT TO MEET ME.
HOW UNUS-UAL...
Chapter 93:
Are you stupid or what!?
SFX: STAND UP
ARE YOU ALONE TODAY ?
YOU KNOW ...
EXACTLY WHY.

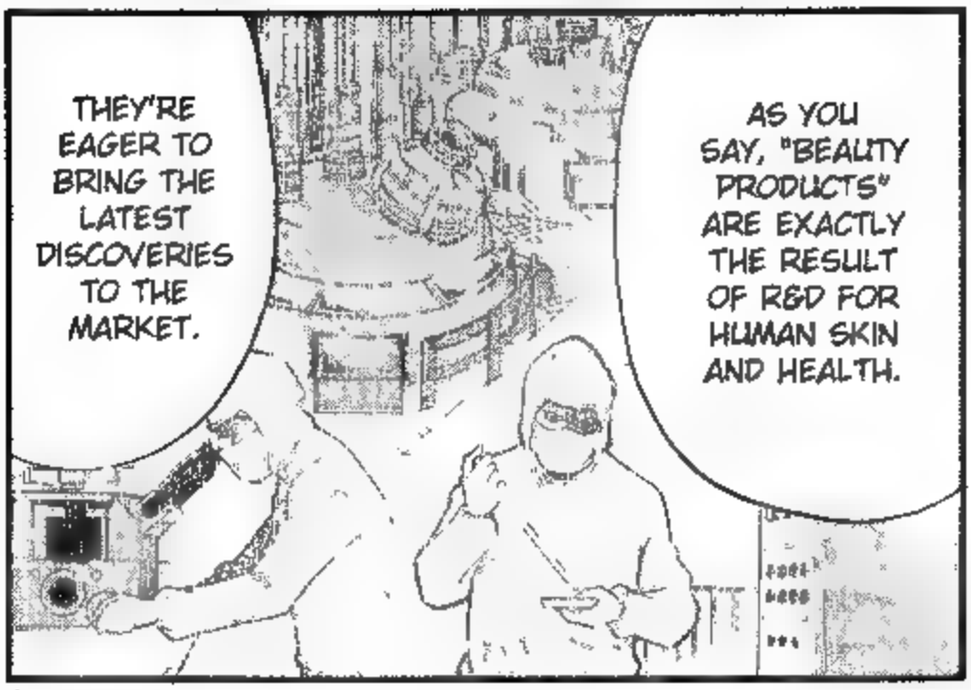

Chapter 93:
Are you stupid or what!?

"YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHY...?"
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I KNOW THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THIS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AND SHIMATANI AT LABEL.

YOU DISCOVERED AGAWA-KUN'S ACS ENZYME FROM THE HEALTH EXAM LABEL CONDUCTS ON ITS EMPLOYEES...
I CONTACTED THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION, AND THEY SAID THAT IT WAS SHIMATANI WHO HAD CHOSEN THIS HOSPITAL.
SO? HE'S AN ALUMNUS HERE.
HE MADE A CHANGE VIA THAT CONNECTION.

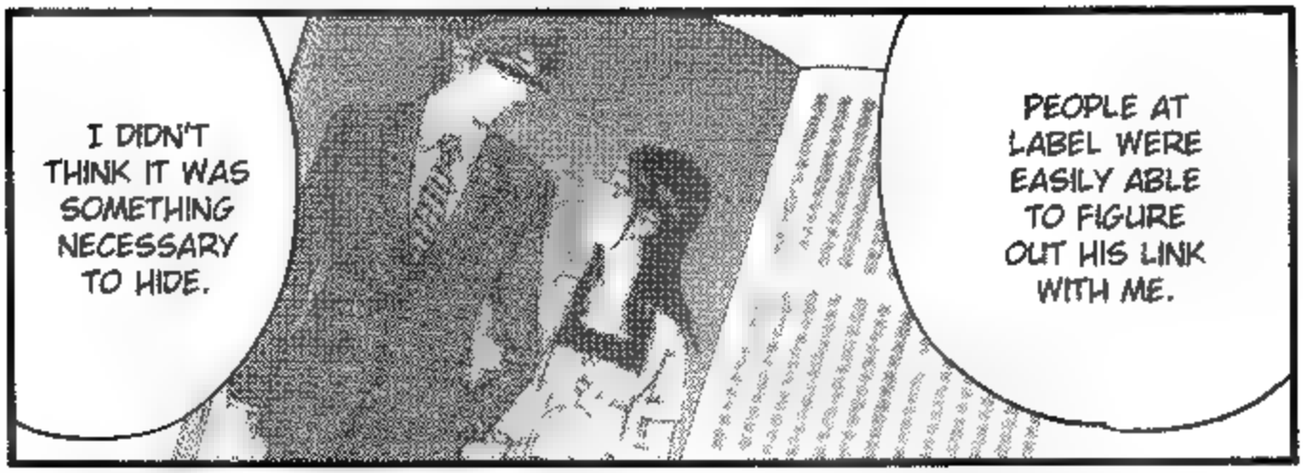
FOR A JOINT LAB WITH YOU IN THIS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL!
ALSO, HE MADE LABEL PROVIDE A LOT OF FUNDING...

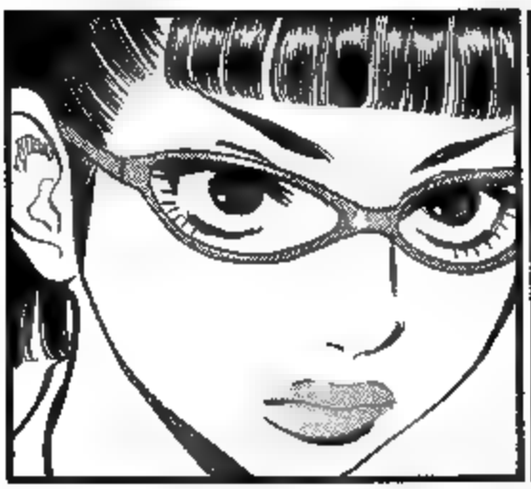

THEY'RE EAGER TO BRING THE LATEST DISCOVERIES TO THE MARKET.
AS YOU SAY, "BEAUTY PRODUCTS" ARE EXACTLY THE RESULT OF R&D FOR HUMAN SKIN AND HEALTH.

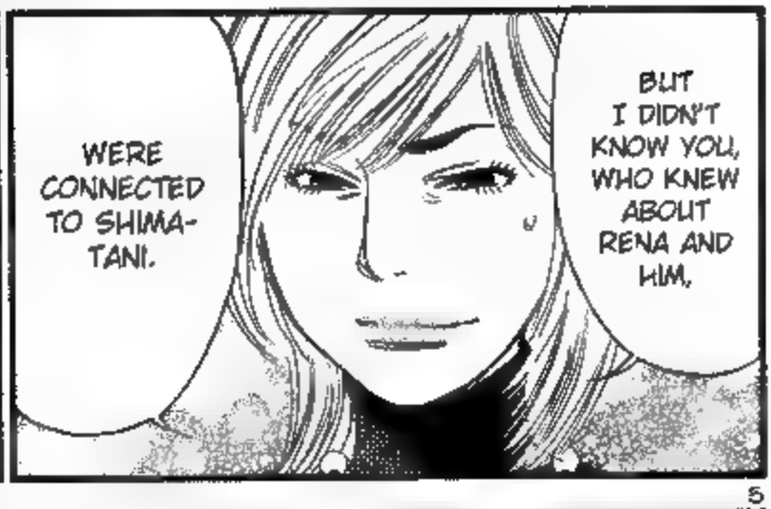
.....
SO WHAT?

WHEN RENA AND AGAWA-KUN WERE PRINTED IN THAT MAGAZINE
I SHOULD'VE BEEN CAREFUL...

IT'S PART OF CORPORATE STRATEGY FOR EVERY BEAUTY PRODUCT MAKER TO NATURALLY DO THAT.


I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS SOMETHING NECESSARY TO HIDE.
PEOPLE AT LABEL WERE EASILY ABLE TO FIGURE OUT HIS LINK WITH ME.




WERE CONNECTED TO SHIMA-TANI.
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW YOU, WHO KNEW ABOUT RENA AND HIM.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?

IT WAS HIS IDEA TO SEND KASE EIKO TO THE THREE OF US, RIGHT?

I THINK HE SENSED A DISTORTION IN OUR RELATION-SHIP...
HE WANTED TO DESTROY OUR BOND!

HE KEPT A LOW PROFILE, THEN HE HEAD-HUNTED AGAWA-KUN TO BRING DISGRACE UPON ME.
REVENGE ON ME FOR HUMILIA-TING HIM EARLIER.
SHIMA-TANI WANTED ...
AND KNEW THAT MY MIND WAS THE WEAKEST LINK.

FOR YOUR RESEARCH ON RENA'S ILLNESS IF AGAWA-KUN AND I BROKE UP!
ON ANOTHER NOTE, I BET YOU BELIEVED IT WOULD BE LESS RISKY...

YOU DIDN'T NEED AGAWA-KUN ANY MORE, SO YOU HELPED WITH SHIMATANI'S PLAN TO BREAK THE THREE OF US UP!
EVEN MORE SO, UPON DISCOVERING A NEW ACS ENZYME CARRIER, KASE EIKO,

IS RENA WITH AGAWA-SAN NOW...?
THEN,
.....
WASN'T IT YOU WHO HAD KASE EIKO TAKE RENA?
I HAVE SOME URGENT BUSI-NESS TO ATTEND TO.
CAN YOU PLEASE LEAVE?
SFX: WOBBLE

THIS IS SENDOUJI
HELLO ?

トゥルルル

OH, YOU MEAN RENA
I WANT TO SPEAK ABOUT THE CC PATIENT

WHAT'S THE MATTER ?

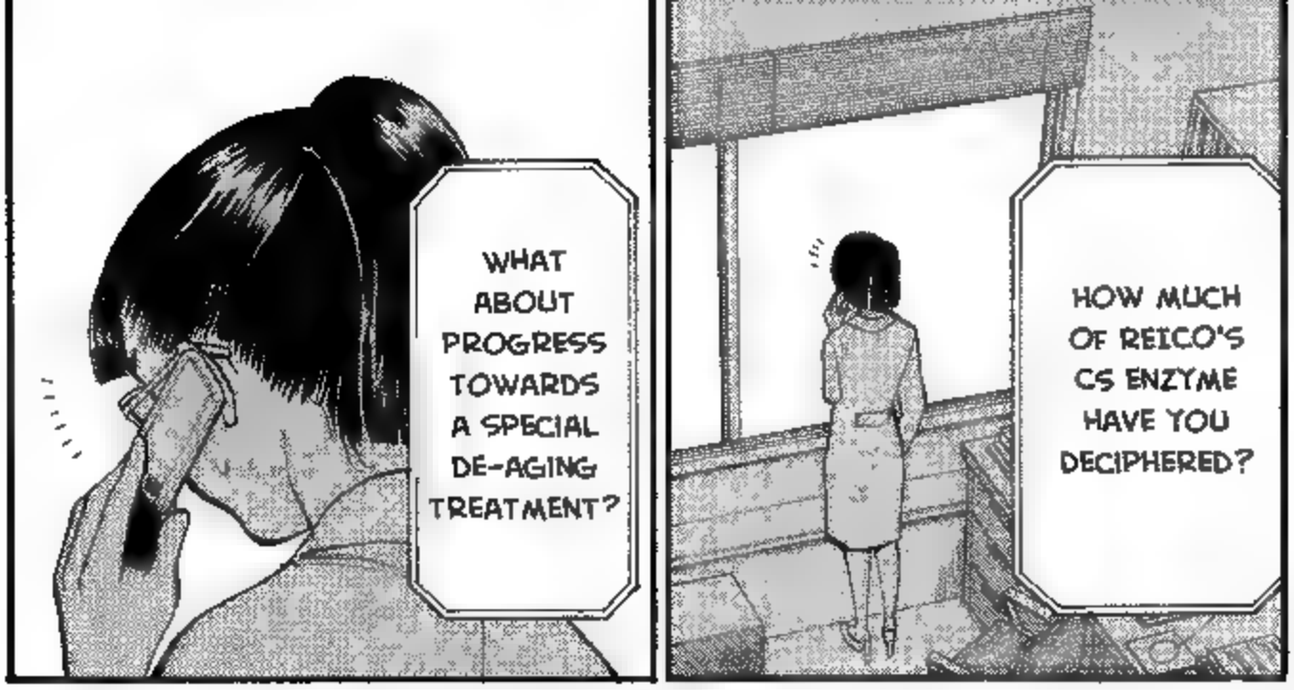
H-HEY SHIMA-SAN
ABOUT RENA

IS IT TRUE THAT SHE ISN'T WITH AGAWA-KUN, THE ACS ENZYME CARRIER?

SHE'S BEEN WITH KASE EIKO!
FOR TWO MONTHS!

BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT RENA TO STAY AWAY FROM HIM...
I PROMISED TO HELP YOU BREAK UP AGAWA-KUN AND ASOU AS YOU SAID,

MORE IMPORTANTLY...
FIND A CHANCE TO LET RENA MEET AGAWA-KUN.
I'LL...
SEN-DOUJI-KUN
CALM DOWN,


WHAT ABOUT PROGRESS TOWARDS A SPECIAL DE-AGING TREATMENT?
HOW MUCH OF REICO'S CS ENZYME HAVE YOU DECIPHERED?

OR WE MIGHT LOSE THE IMPORTANT SAMPLE'S LIFE...
WE MUST PRIORITISE DEVELOPING A VACCINE AGAINST THE CS ENZYME FIRST!
WELL, NOT MUCH...

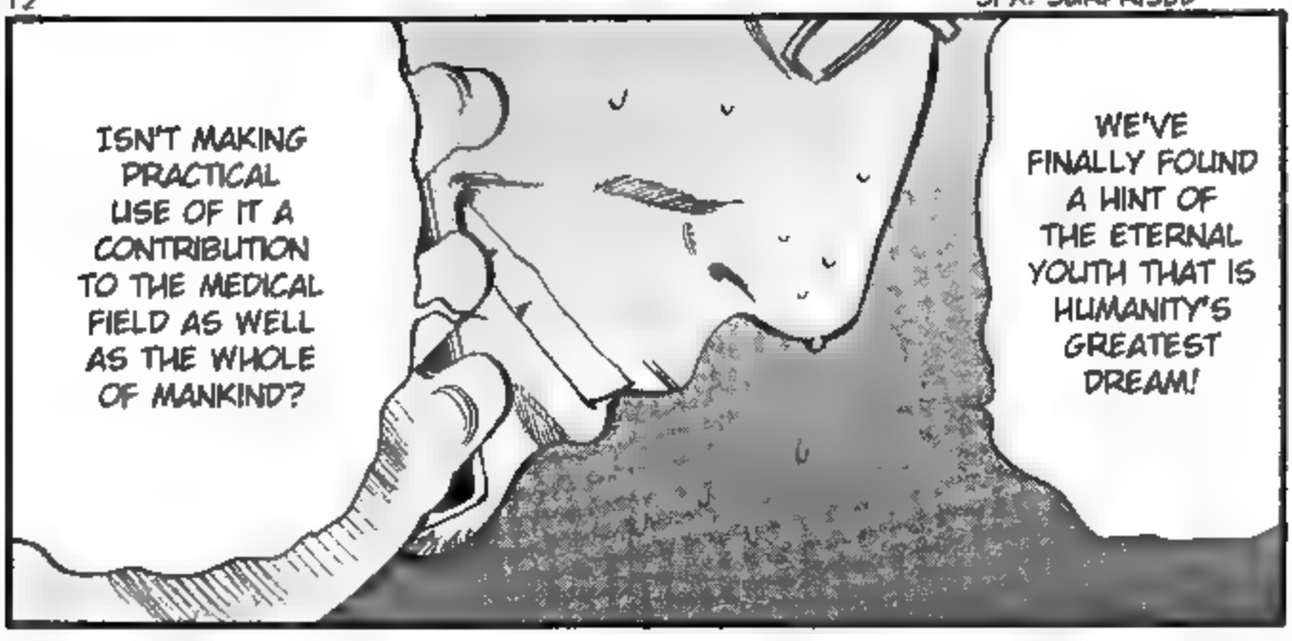
?
YES?
.....

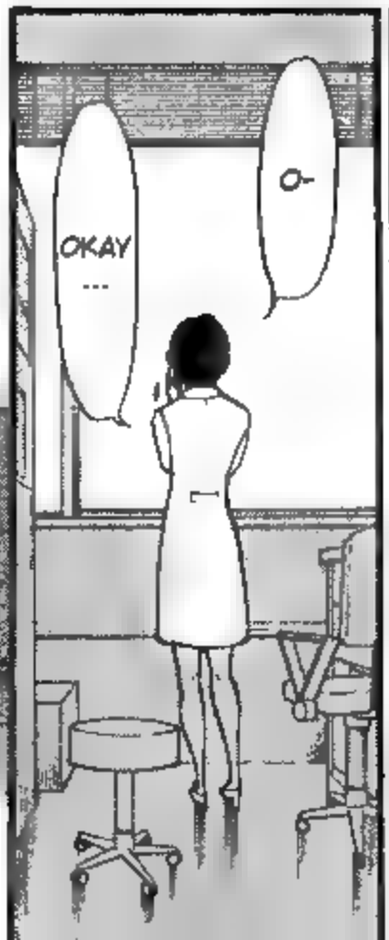
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

YOU CLUE-LESS WOMAN!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS TO YOU THAT WE MUST PUT THE DE-AGING TREATMENT ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE?

12

SFX: SURPRISED

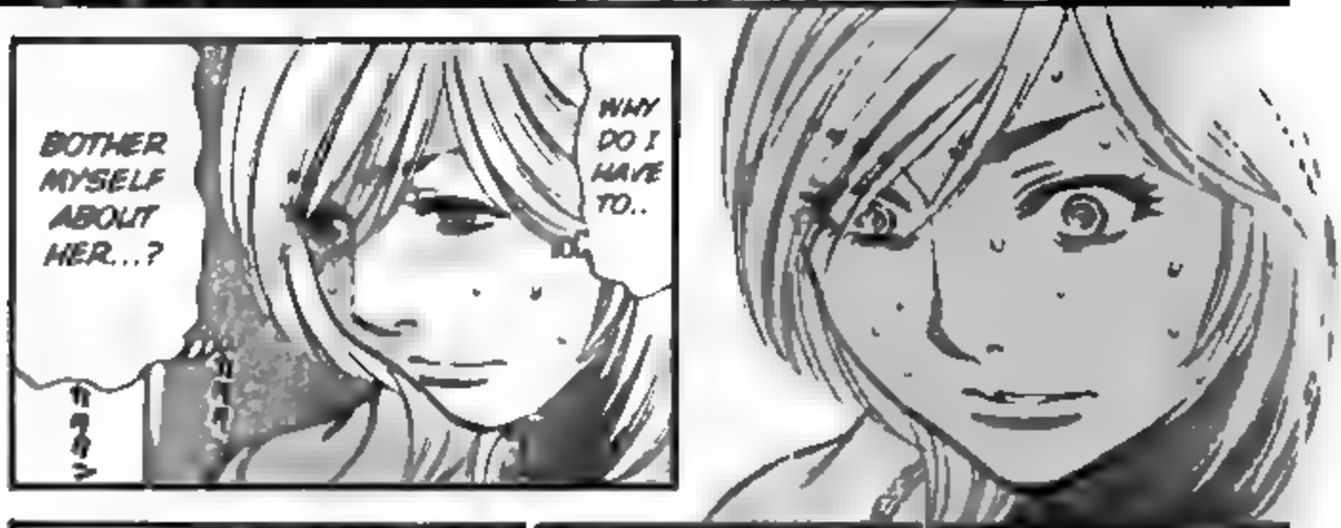

ISN'T MAKING PRACTICAL USE OF IT A CONTRIBUTION TO THE MEDICAL FIELD AS WELL AS THE WHOLE OF MANKIND?
WE'VE FINALLY FOUND A HINT OF THE ETERNAL YOUTH THAT IS HUMANITY'S GREATEST DREAM!



GENERAL HOSPITAL

SHE WAS "JUST SAD BECAUSE SHE WAS OBSESSED TO THE FACT THAT RENA WASN'T WITH AGAWA-KUN
SHE WAS DISTURBED
I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT BUT COULD IT BE
IT'S ALREADY BEEN TWO MONTHS SINCE RENA LEFT
THAT KASE EIKO DOESN'T CARRY THE ACS ENZYME!
WHAT IF SHE HASN'T TAKEN ANY IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS'?

IS RENA...
OKAY!?


WHY DO I HAVE TO..
BOTHER MYSELF ABOUT HER...?

SFX: TE-TRAK
I WON-DER IF AGAWA-KUN KNOWS
ABOUT THIS
I'M BLOC-KED...

DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE?
I JUST KNOW.
SOON I'LL SHRINK
SOON
IT'S BEEN TWO MONTHS

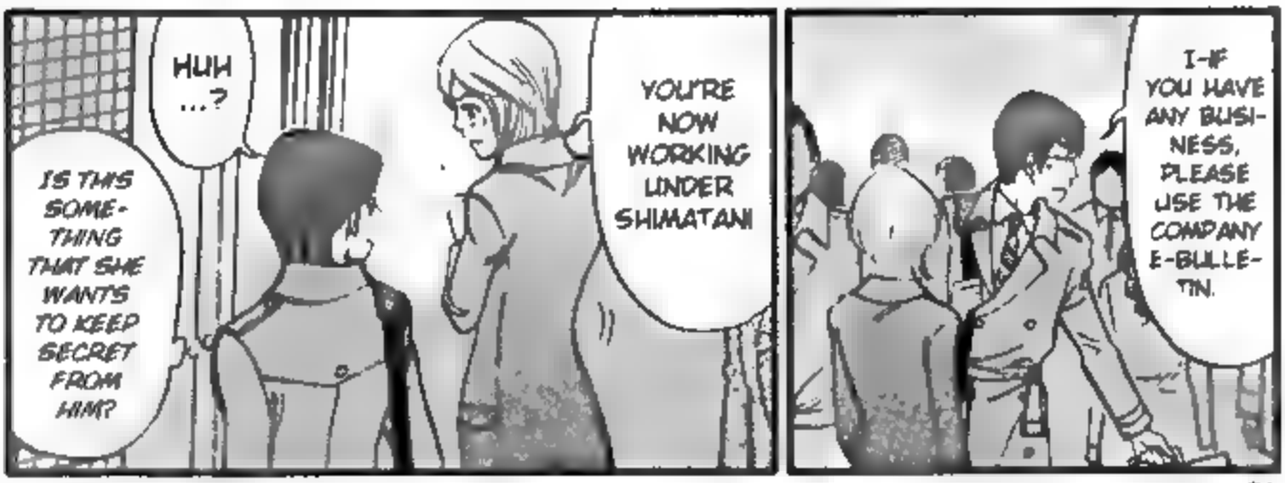
.....
SORRY,
BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY WITH ME A LITTLE LONGER.
WELL,
I GUESS YOU HATE ME
BUT IT'S OKAY...
BECAUSE I'M USED TO COLD GAZES LIKE THAT.
SFX: POP
SFX: TAP!
KISS MY FOOT,
AND BEG FOR IT.
DON'T YOU WANT THE ACS ENZYME?

KISS THE FOOT OF THE ONE YOU HATE SO MUCH!
Aha haha!
KYAH!
SAY "PLEASE KISS ME!"
SFX: POUR
NEXT TIME WE MEET, I'LL LOOK MUCH YOUNGER...
I'M LOSING IT...
AGAWA-SAN,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.
CERTAINLY WON'T RECOGNISE ME EVEN WHEN THEY SEE ME...
AGAWA-SAN, AND ASOU-SAN AS WELL...
PART OF ME WILL BE GONE AGAIN.

IT'S HARD BECAUSE I'M NOT USED TO IT YET
AH...
PHEW
BUT IT HELPS TO KEEP ME BUSY
AH... THESE NEW THINGS TO LEARN OCCUPY MY MIND
SO I CAN KEEP THE MEMORIES OF THE THREE OF US IN A CORNER OF MY MIND...
IT'S JUST THE GAME
AS MY SELF-IMAGE TWISTED BY THE TRAUMA WITH MY FIRST TRAUMA AND PRETENDED THAT NOTHING HAD HAPPENED
I'M JUST BACK TO THE OLD ME

ASCA-
SAN
HOW COULD YOU BLOCK ME? STOP ACTING LIKE A CHILD!
!!

?
?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING AROUND SINCE NOON! NOW I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU!
HUH?


HUH ...?
IS THIS SOMETHING THAT SHE WANTS TO KEEP SECRET FROM HIM?
YOU'RE NOW WORKING UNDER SHIMATANI
I-IF YOU HAVE ANY BUSINESS, PLEASE USE THE COMPANY E-BULLETIN.

I'VE SENT HER A FEW TEXTS.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THAT DAY.
TEXTS ?
BEEN MEETING RENA?
HAVE YOU .

THERE'S A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT ROSE EMILY DOESN'T CARRY THE ACS ENZYME

THEY WANTED US TO BREAK UP!
WHAT?
SENDOUJI WAS CONSPIRING WITH SHIMATANI!

WHAT?

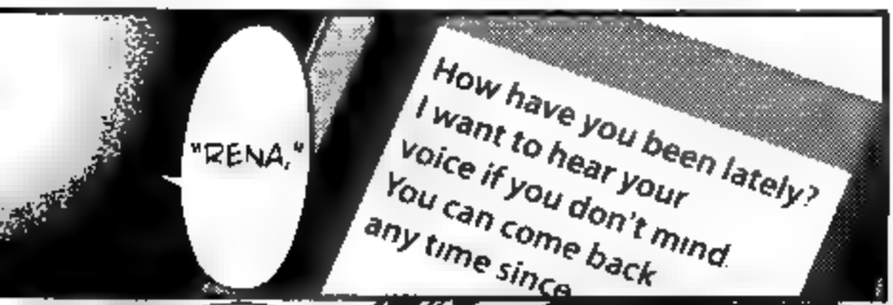
I WANTED TO SAY
THAT'S ALL
.....
.....

WHAT I KNOW ABOUT RENA
I'VE TOLD YOU

ASOU-SAN!
A-
SO, IT COULD BE...
THAT RENA HASN'T TAKEN ANY ACS ENZYME IN
FOR THESE PAST TWO MONTHS !?
.....
SFX: NOISE
SHE SAID SHE WOULD HAVE A SEIZURE THAT MAKES HER SHRINK EVERY OTHER MONTH!
トゥルルル トゥルルル
SFX: RING
I HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO HER ON THE PHONE THESE DAYS.
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE IN THE ANSWERING MACHINE
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE. I'LL TEXT HER.
SFX: BEEP
.....

...WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

A TEXT FROM YOUR BELOVED AGAWA-SAN AFTER SO LONG.


"RENA,"
How have you been lately?
I want to hear your voice if you don't mind.
You can come back any time since

"I WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE IF YOU DON'T MIND."
"HOW HAVE YOU BEEN LATELY?"

"YOU CAN COME BACK ANY TIME SINCE OUR ABSOLUTE PROMISE WILL NEVER GO AWAY."
Agawa-san!
AGAWA-SAN!
You can stay with me forever.
This is an absolute promise.
Rana ...
Abso-lutely ...

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
TELL ME HONESTLY.
IT'S AN IMPORTANT PROMISE HE MADE... WITH ME...

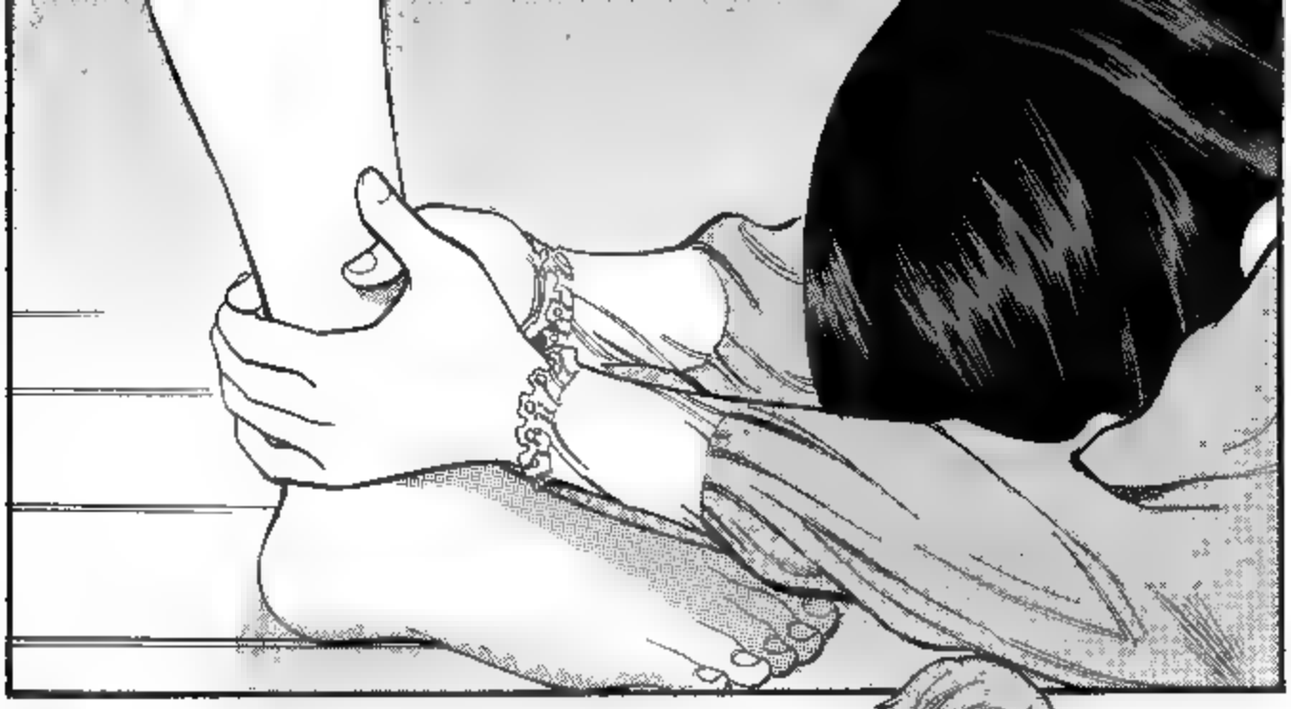
.....
WHAT A CUTE THING HE SAID!
KYA HAHA HAHA!
THAT FOUR-EYES!
"A KISS A DAY..."
SFX: CLICK

To Rena

Subject

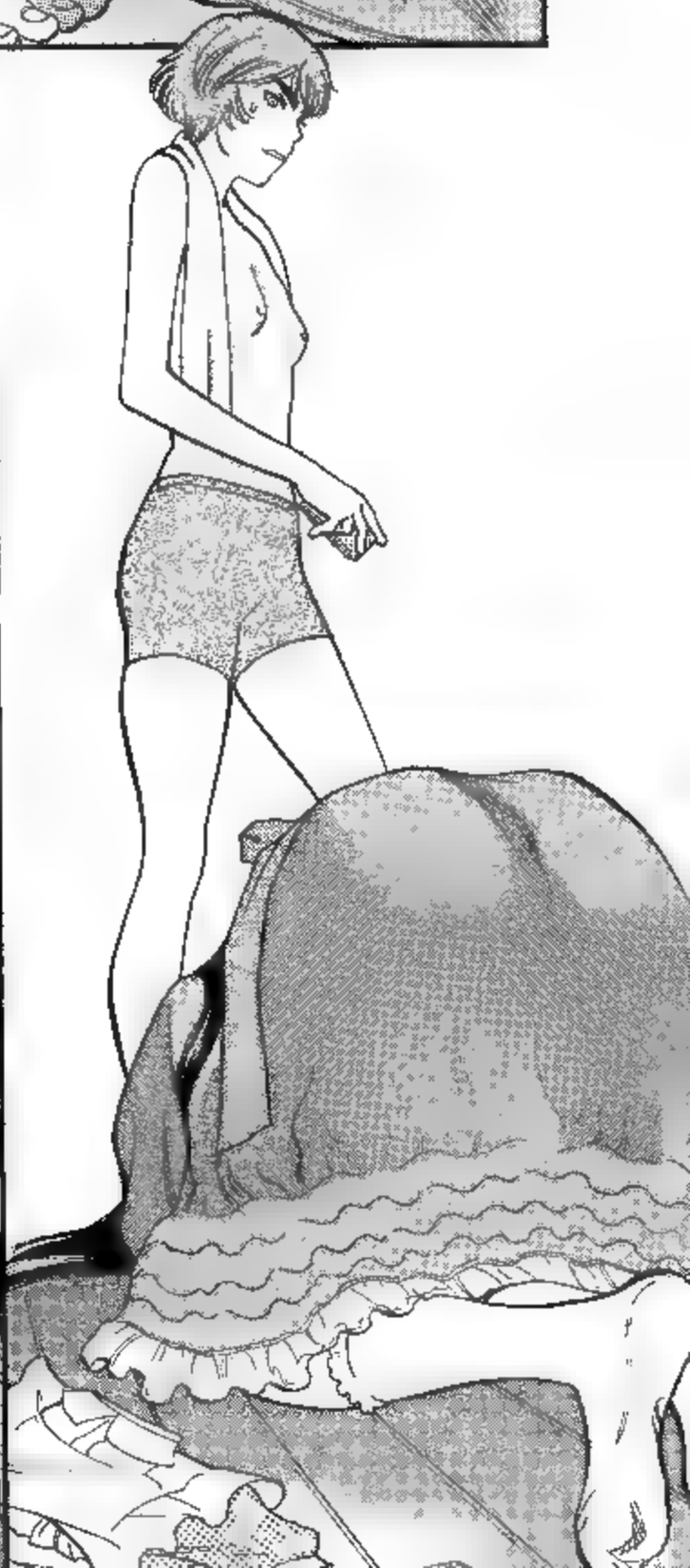
Don't worry ♥
Eiko-san has been kissing
me every day here.
I'll call you once I'm
settled ♥
Please wait (=^_^=)ノ彡☆

RENA!
ARE YOU OKAY, RENA!?
!

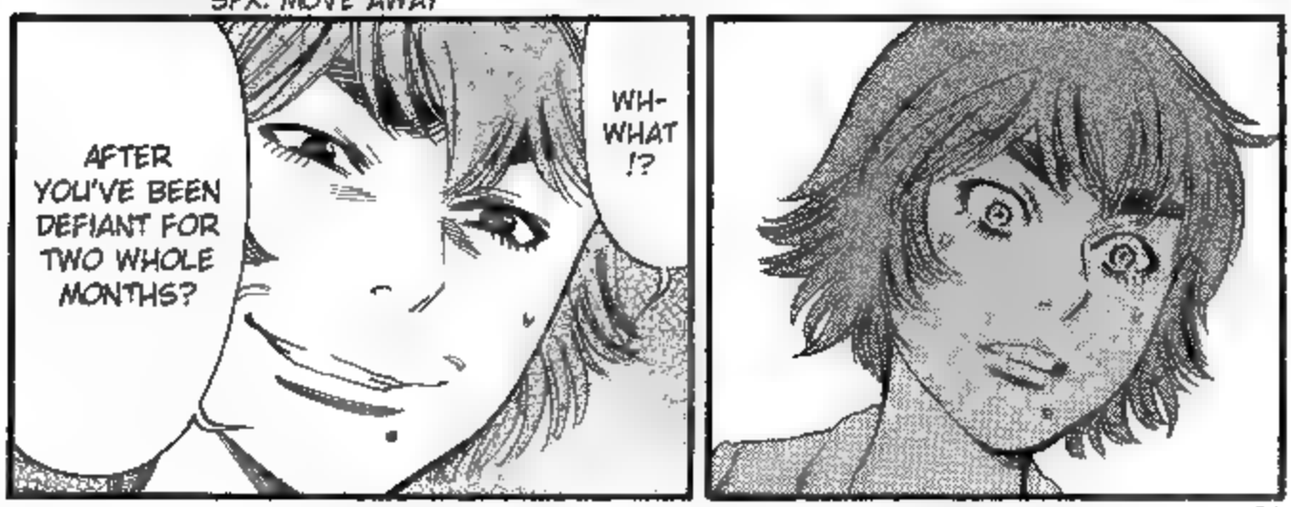


PLEASE

ME...
KISS
...



SFX: MOVE AWAY



HOW UGLY!
DO YOU WANT A KISS FROM A COMMON WOMAN LIKE ME?
REICO THE NATIONAL IDOL!?
FOR MY CONTINUED EXISTENCE ...
I RELY ON YOU SO MUCH...
WHEN I ASKED A PERSONAL FAVOUR OF YOU.
CERTAINLY, I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE GRATEFUL TO YOU

WHETHER IT'S UGLY OR NOT, I'VE GOT NO CHOICE.
IF I'M LEFT BEHIND AND ALONE,
WHAT WILL PRIDE BE GOOD FOR?

WE ALL WANT TO LIVE...
IN THE SAME ERA AS THOSE WE LOVE .

YOU SHOULD KNOW SINCE YOU'VE LOVED SOMEONE BEFORE.

PL-
EASE
STOP
BULLY-
ING
ME.
SO I
BEG
YOU.
I'LL
...
DEFINITELY
COME TO
LIKE YOU.
.....

I DON'T KNOW...
BECAUSE I'VE NEVER LOVED ANYONE.
DON'T TOUCH ME!
SFX: SNAP
YOU'VE NEVER LOVED ANYONE?
YOU MUST BE LYING
FU FU,
THERE IS THIS KIND OF PERSON.

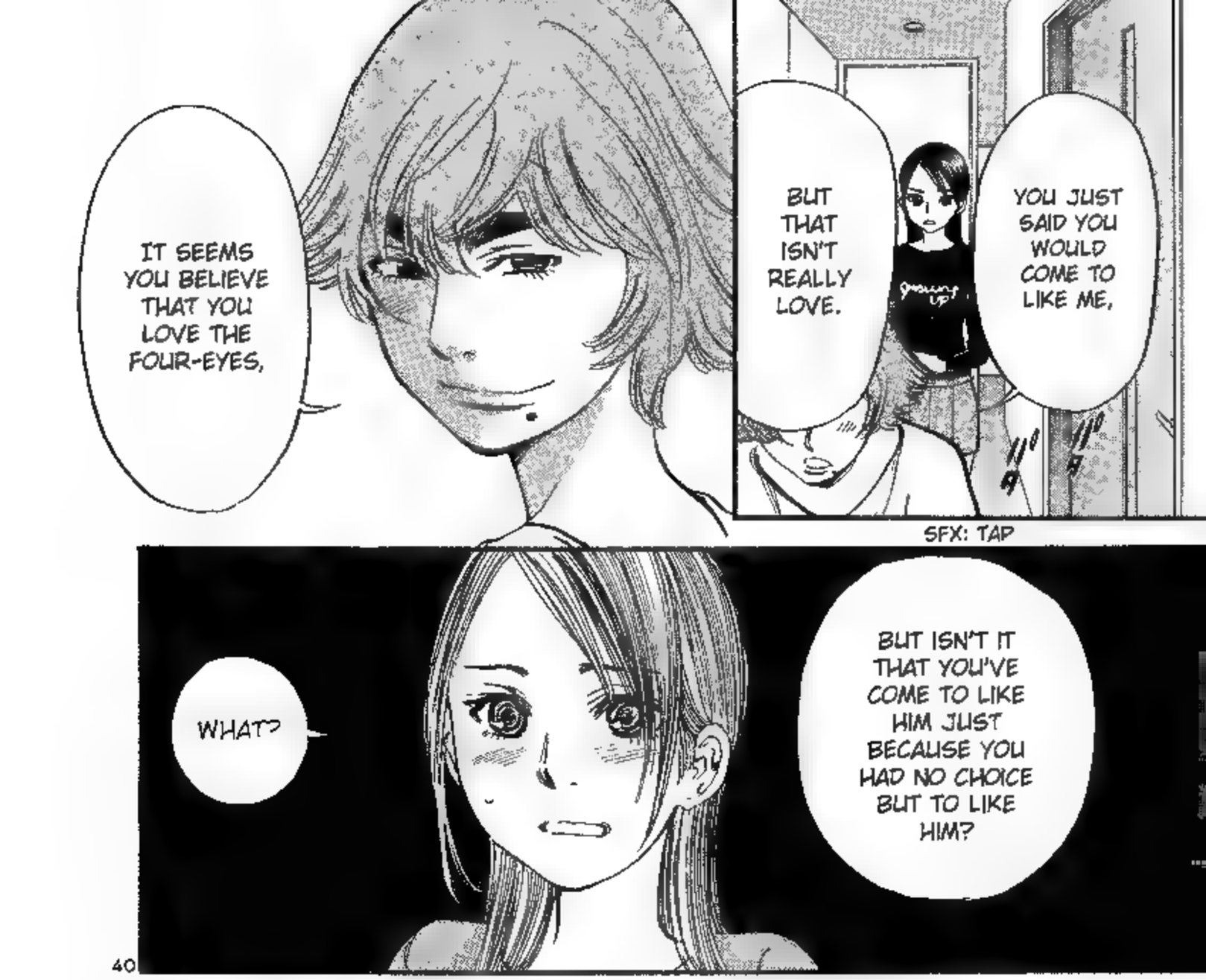
PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN BROKEN...

BY A FORBIDDEN LOVE THEY JUST KNEW THEY COULD NEVER COURT IN THE FIRST PLACE

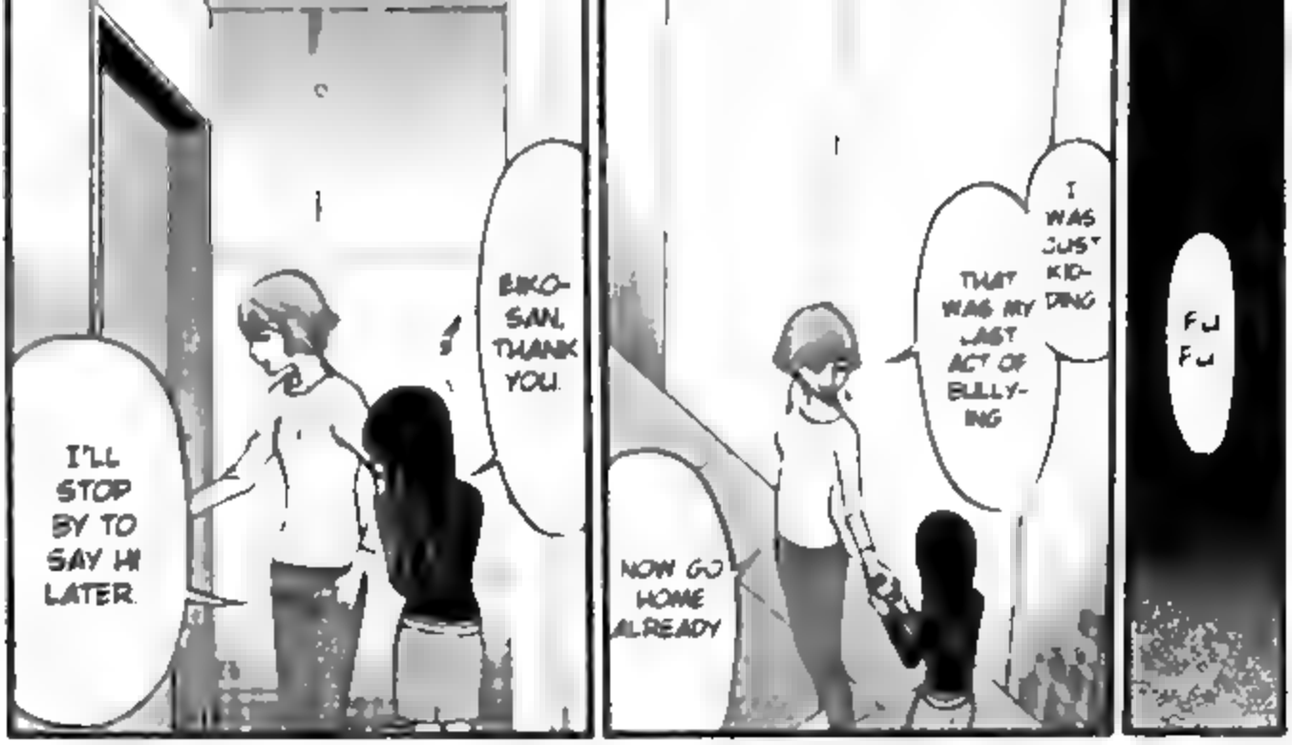
ALL I WAS ASKED TO DO, WAS
TO JUST STIR UP YOUR TRIANGULAR RELATIONSHIP WITH ASOU-SAN AND THE FOUR-EYES
!
HUH?
CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME

AND THEY TOLD ME TO KEEP YOU FROM KISSING HIM...
UNTIL YOU HAD A SEIZURE TO MAKE YOU SHRINK.
SEI-ZURE ?
NO MATTER HOW INHUMANE IT SOUNDS, RESEARCHERS ARE DYING TO GATHER THE DATA FROM THE MOMENT YOU SHRINK.
CAN'T YOU SEE?
IF THEY GET A HINT TOWARDS A DE-AGING TREATMENT FROM YOUR ILLNESS,
IT'LL BE A REVOLUTIONARY DISCOVERY THAT COMPLETELY CHANGES THE WORLD.
WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK?
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO THE FOUR-EYES?

YEAH .. BUT. .
THEY PROMISED ME A JOB,
BUT I'M FED UP WITH BABY-SITTING KIDS NOW.


IT SEEMS YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU LOVE THE FOUR-EYES,
BUT THAT ISN'T REALLY LOVE.
YOU JUST SAID YOU WOULD COME TO LIKE ME,
SFX: TAP
WHAT?
BUT ISN'T IT THAT YOU'VE COME TO LIKE HIM JUST BECAUSE YOU HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO LIKE HIM?

WHERE DID HE GO?
WELL, I THINK HE'S TAKING THE DAY OFF.
WHERE'S MANAGER SHIMA-TANI?
SFX: CLOSE IN
HOW CAN I GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM!?
AGAWA-SAN, WHAT'S WRONG?
Haa
Haa



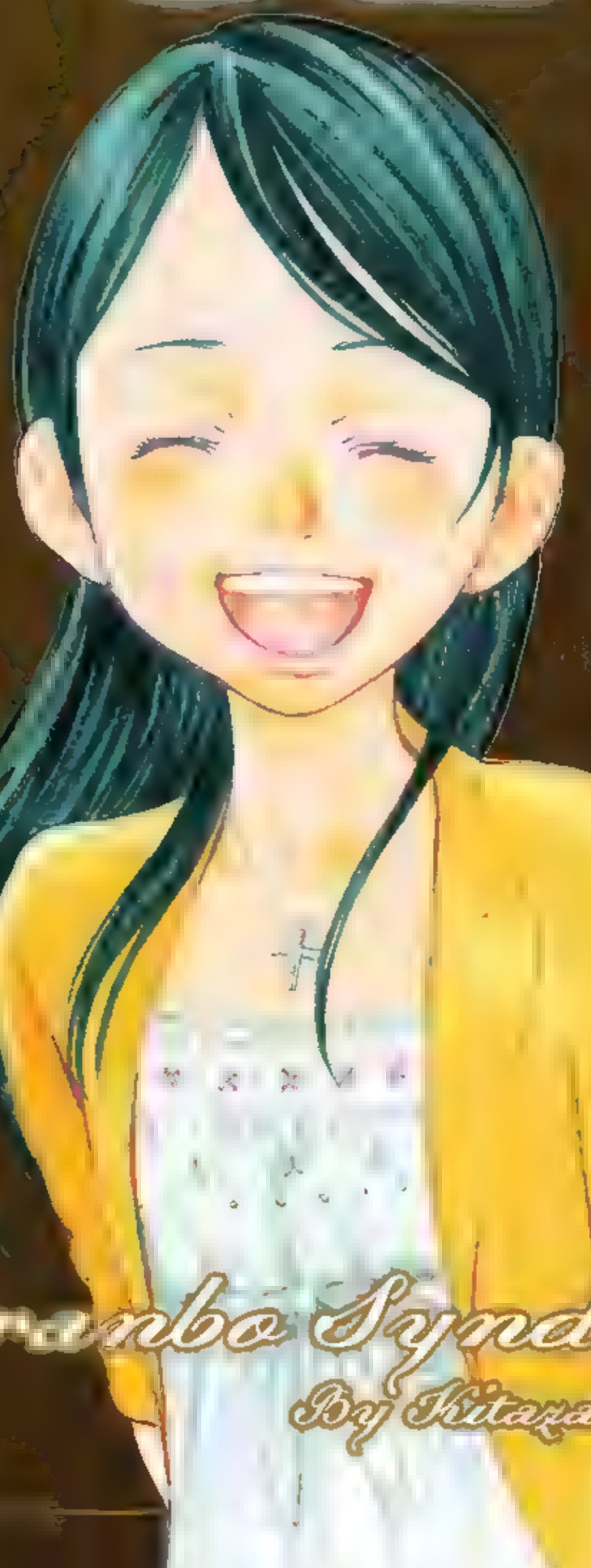
SFX CLICK

SFX OPEN

WHO SAID YOU COULD JUST DO WHATEVER YOU PLEASED...?

Cleaning:
Zujids
Raws:
YandereS, Shiratori
Typesetting:
mesdagar
Translation:
anonymous preferred
Redraw:
Zujids
Proofreading:
Volandum

11



Sakurambo Syndrome

By Kitazaki Tooru

Chapter 94:
I Don't Want to Shrink Again!

2 SFX CLICK

I ONLY UNDERTOOK TO BREAK UP THAT COUPLE...
IN THE FIRST PLACE,
LET'S STOP THIS ALREADY.
MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M BEING CORRUPTED
BULLYING A WEAK GIRL THIS MUCH...
YOU'RE SAYING NONSENSE AFTER GETTING INVOLVED THIS DEEPLY.
SFX: STEP

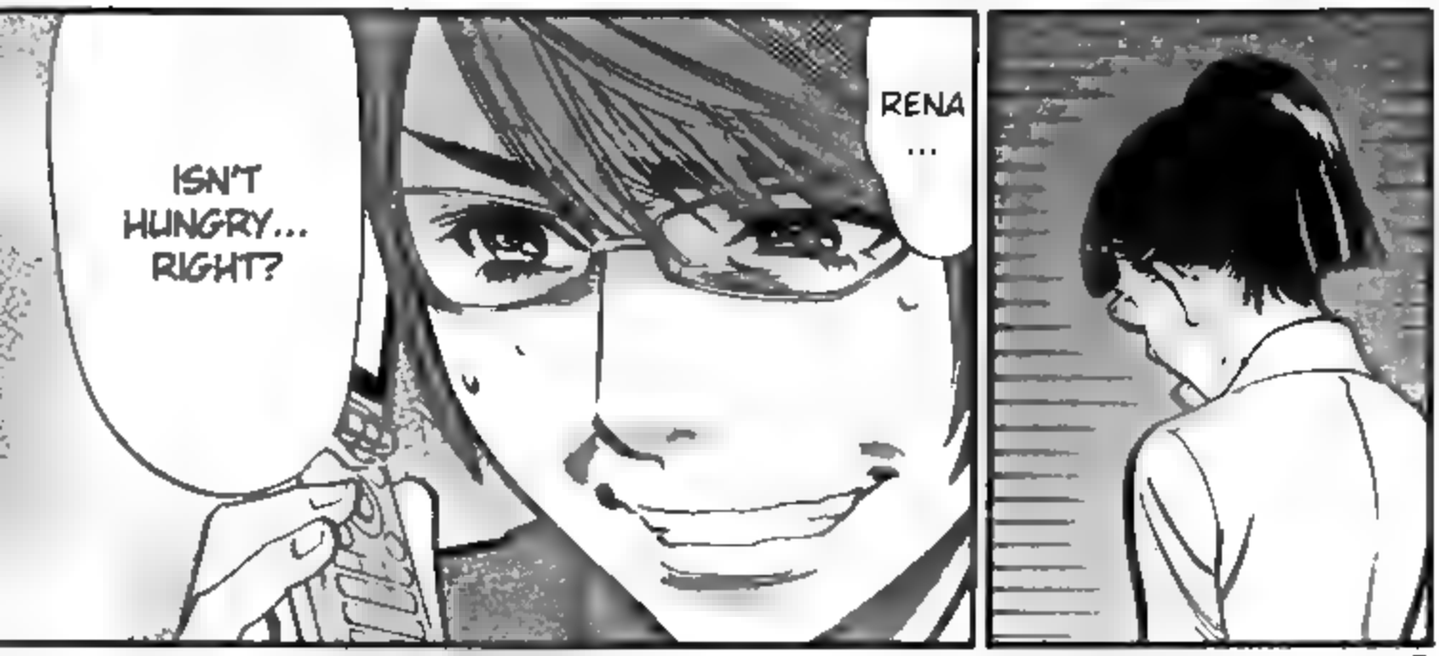
WOMEN...
...OH,
SO YOU GAVE IN TO PITY...
SFX: GROWL

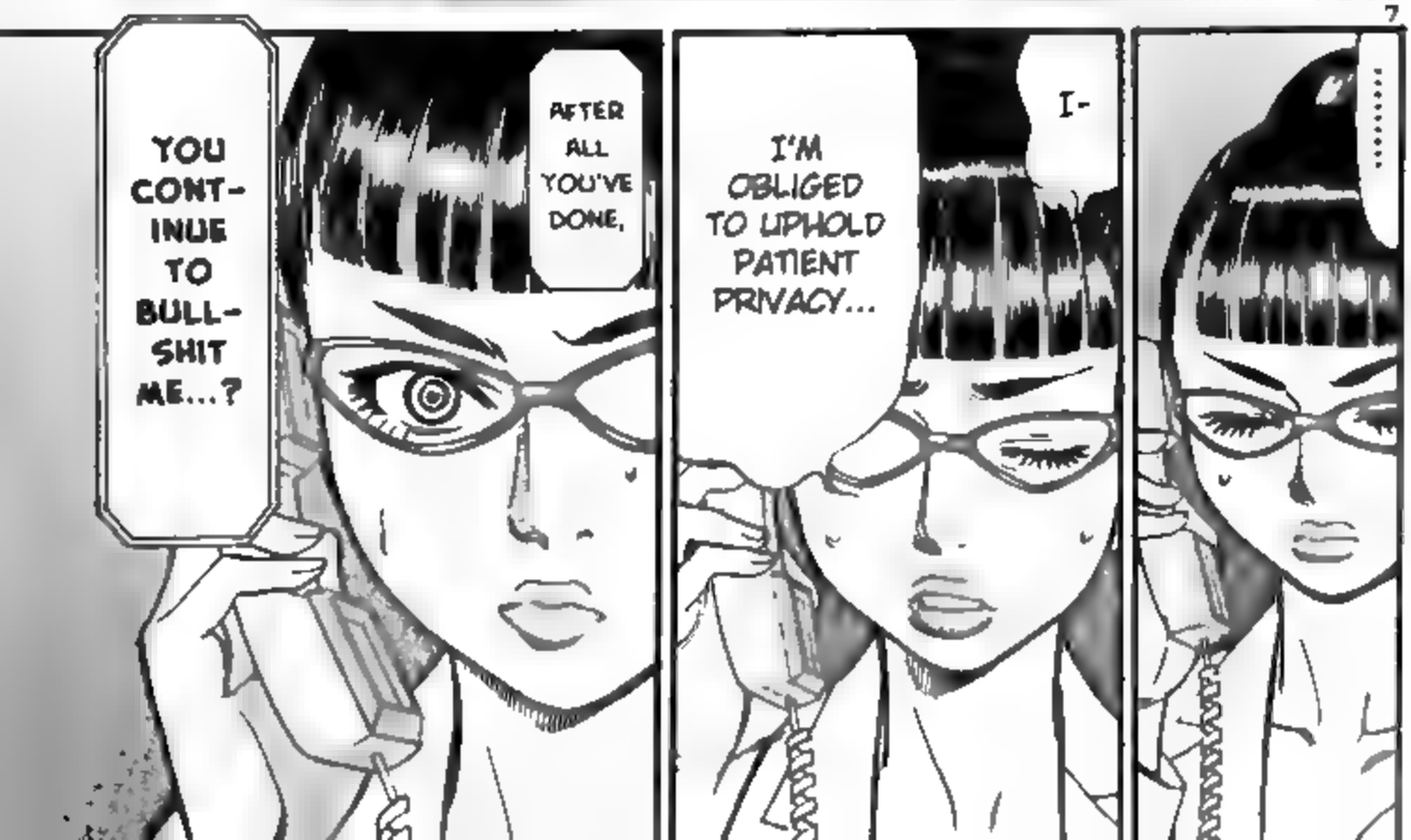
LET GO OF HER!
STOP!
KYAH!
EIKO-SAN!

トゥルルー
トゥルルー
SFX RING
AH, MANAGER
HELLO SHIMATANI SPEAKING
トゥルルー
トゥルルー
SFX CLICK
I WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU I'LL CALL YOU LATER
THIS IS AYANA FROM THE PR DEPARTMENT
SFX RING
I CAN'T ANSWER YOUR CALL AT THE MOMENT PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE
WHERE IS HE?
SFX: HURRY UP

WHERE ARE YOU, RENA!?
Sendouji was conspiring with Shimatani!
HEL-LO,
THIS IS SEN-DOUJI.
SFX: RING
AGAWA SPEAK-ING.
I HEARD ABOUT RENA...
YES.
.....
FROM ASOU-SAN TODAY
SO, KASE EIKO...
HAS THE ACS ENZYME, DOESN'T SHE?

RENA
...
HAS BEEN TAKING THE ACS ENZYME FROM HER EVERY DAY, RIGHT?
.....


RENA
...
ISN'T HUNGRY... RIGHT?


I-
I'M OBLIGED TO UPHOLD PATIENT PRIVACY...
AFTER ALL YOU'VE DONE,
YOU CONT-INUE TO BULL-SHIT ME...?
.....

WHERE IS...
KASE EIKO RIGHT NOW?

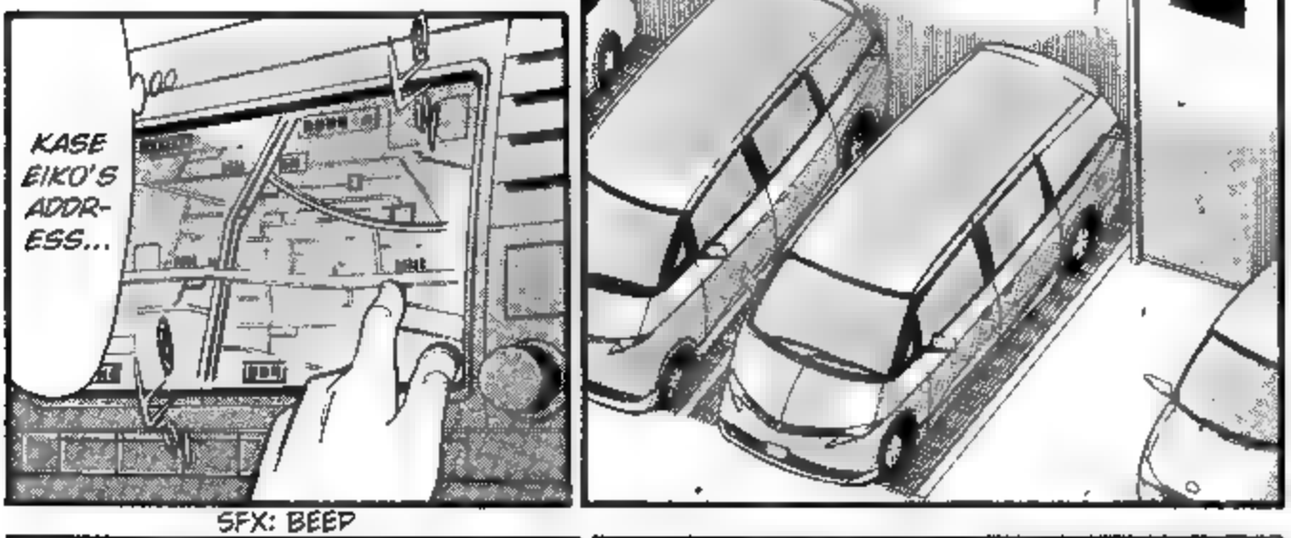
HEY AGAWA.
SAY SORRY!

SFX: RUN
WHOA!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM...?
...

THIS IS AGAWA FROM THE PR DEPARTMENT I WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU
AH, IT'S ME, SHIMATANI.
Ring Ring
HEL-LO
I'LL CALL YOU LATER
Hang up
SFX TAP
9
A-ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT A-AGAWA, SIR?
IS AGAWA-KUN THERE?
BUT I'M NOT SURE IF HE'S STILL AT WORK...
I JUST RAN INTO HIM IN THE HALL-WAY...
YES! I'M AT WORK RIGHT NOW!
M-MANAGER SHIMATANI! THIS IS UMETSU SPEAKING!
SFX: STAND UP

CAN YOU PLEASE
HOLD HIM FOR TWO HOURS OR SO WITH SOME SORT OF EXCUSE?



SFX: BEEP

HOW RUDE OF YOU!
GET OUT OF THE CAR ALREADY!
I'M REALLY BUSY, WHY DON'T WE TALK ABOUT IT TOMOR-ROW?
WHAT WAS THAT?
WHAT'S WITH YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS YOUR SENPAI?

SFX: GRAB

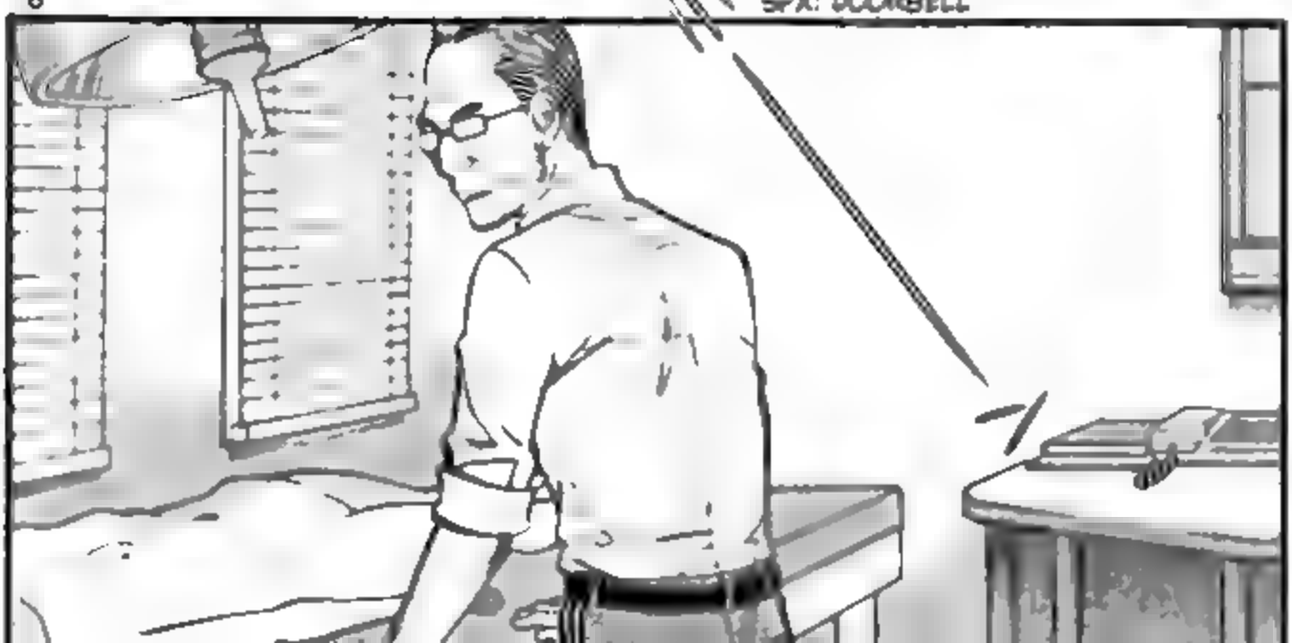
.....
!!
DIDN'T I SAY I WAS BUSY!?
SFX CLOSE'
.....
WHOA
AH!
SFX: CRUISE

I'M AFRAID THEY'VE BEEN TAKEN AWAY.
THE DOOR'S NOT LOCKED.
RENA'S MOBILE PHONE

DOWN TO THE LAST CELL.
I'll STUDY YOUR BODY'S SEC RETS
SFX RUSTLE
SFX DROP
SFX UNZIP
14

BUT THE MANAGER TOLD ME TO BRING SOME DOCUMENTS HERE
I THINK THE INTERCOM'S WORKING

SFX: DOORBELL



SEE? I DON'T THINK ANYONE'S IN
.....
.....
SFX KNK
SFX DOORBELL
HELLO ?
SFX CREAK

I HAVE A BAD HEART BUT I SUPPORT MY FAMILY BY EXPECTING THE DOCTOR

.....
SFX: CLICK
SFX: TAP

Click
HELLO ?
トルルル
.....
ピッ
ピッ
SFX: RING
SFX: BEEP

I WONDER IF THE THREE OF THEM ARE TOGETHER?
I'M IN FRONT OF SHIMATANI'S APARTMENT, BUT NO LUCK.
THE DOOR WAS OPEN. BOTH EIKO AND RENA WERE GONE!
SHE ISN'T AT KASE EIKO'S PLACE.
HIS CAR'S GONE TOO.
AGAWA-KUN!
HOW'S RENA?

I THINK I HEARD THAT HIS FAMILY RUNS A PRIVATE CLINIC NEAR NAGANO.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?
IDEAS?
AH!
I THINK I CAN GOOGLE IT
OKAY, CALL ME WHEN YOU FIND OUT
I'LL BE HEADING TO NAGANO.
THANK YOU. FOR GETTING IN TOUCH WITH ME
AH,
ASOU-SAN
.....

RENA WAIT FOR ME!!
RENA!

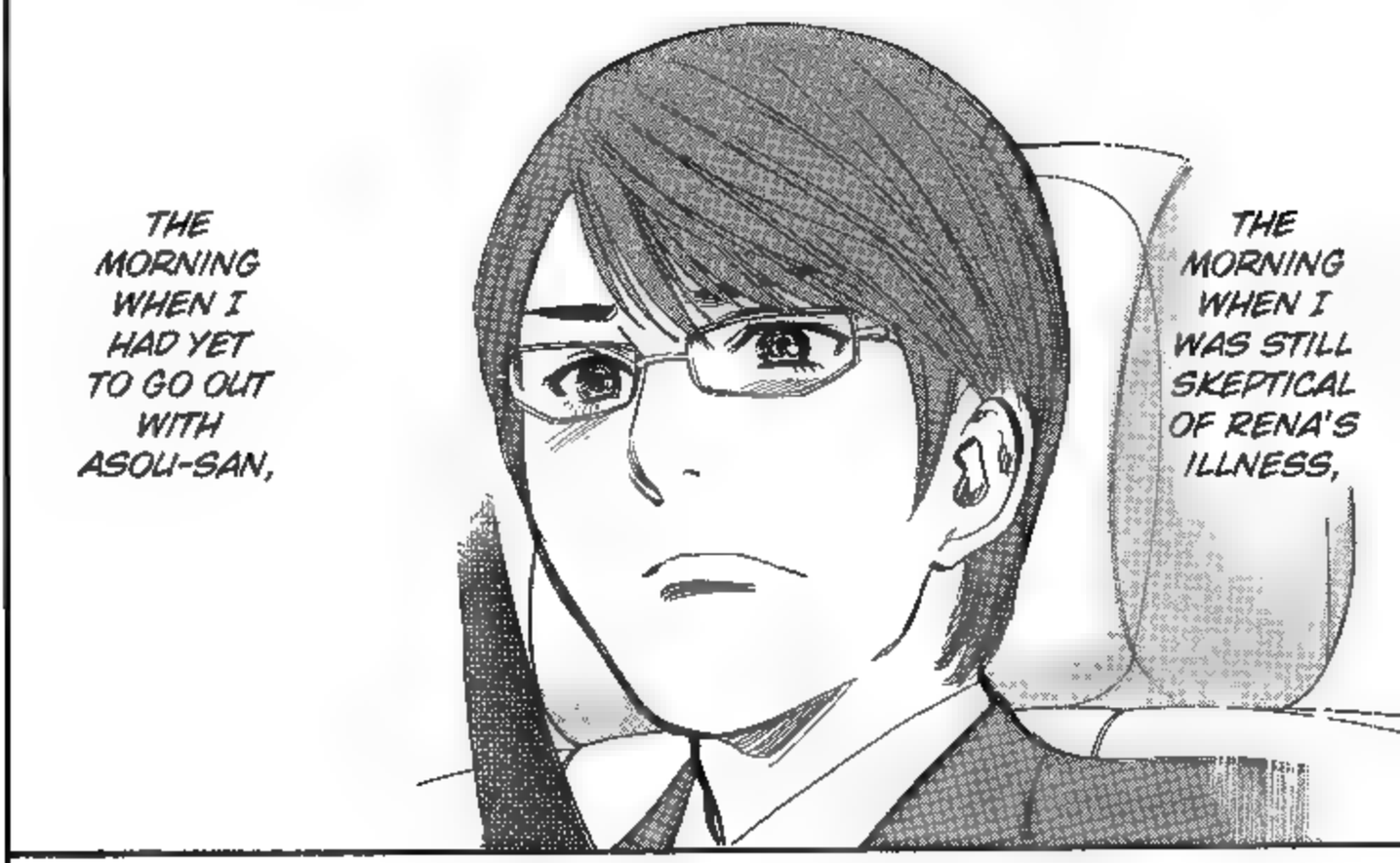
TO KISS YOU!!
I AM ON MY WAY!

I SHOULD HAVE STOPPED HER BY FORCE BACK THEN!
ARE FATED TO BE TOGE-THER!
AND I...
YOU ...

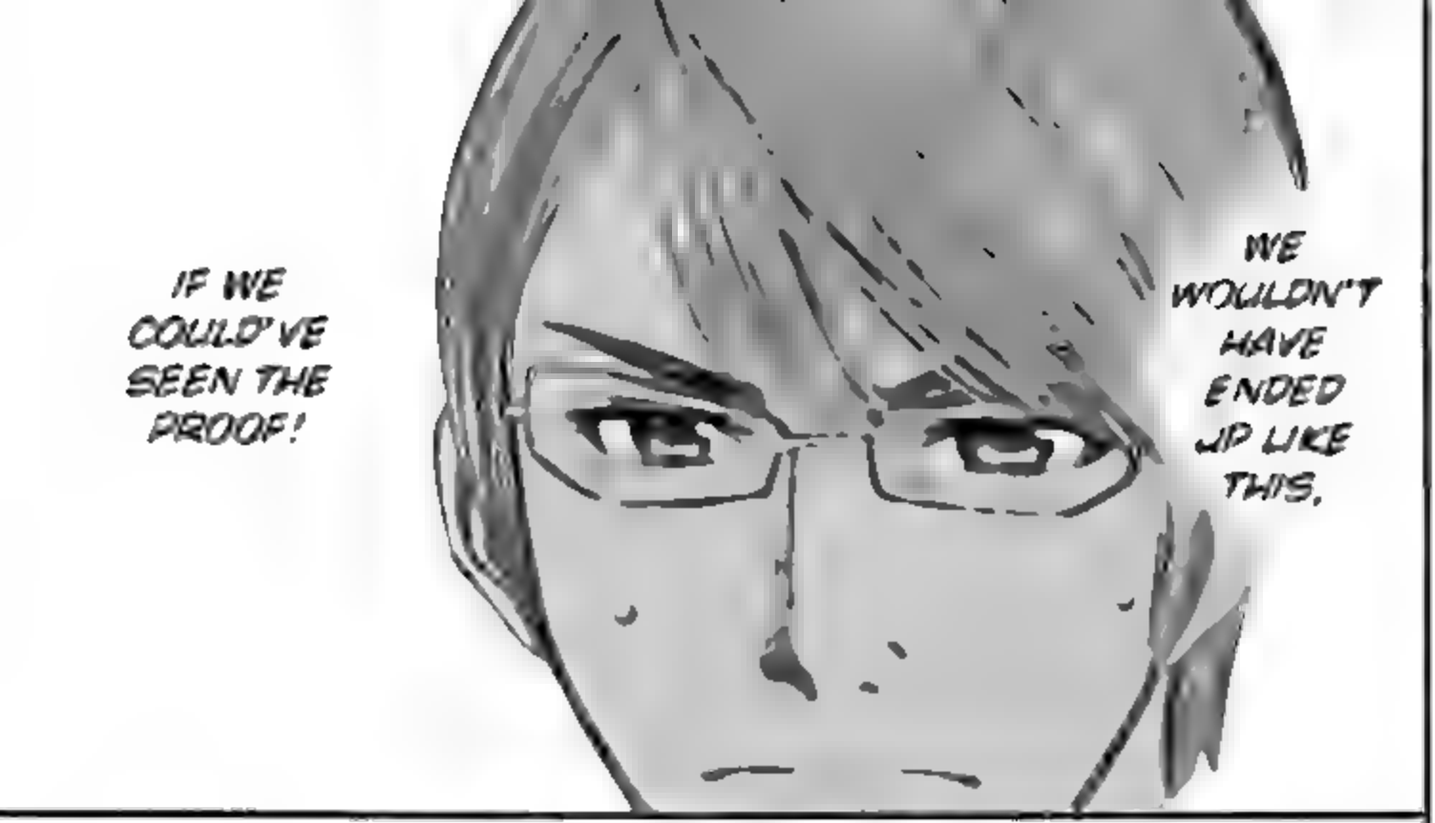
CRYING...
YOU WERE...

FOR EXAM-PLE, ON THAT MORN-ING -
THE PROOF WE WERE BONDED BY A FATE HAD BEEN VISIBLE IN THE BEGIN-NING.
I WISH ...

THE MORNING AFTER WE SLEPT A NIGHT TOGETHER
THE MORNING WE KISSED FOR THE FIRST TIME...


THE MORNING WHEN I HAD YET TO GO OUT WITH ASOU-SAN,
THE MORNING WHEN I WAS STILL SKEPTICAL OF RENA'S ILLNESS,

THAT I WAS ATTRACTED TO RENA AS A WOMAN.
I GUESS IT WAS THE ONLY TIME, OUT OF ALL OF THOSE KISSES BETWEEN US,


IF WE COULD'VE SEEN THE PROOF!
WE WOULDN'T HAVE ENDED UP LIKE THIS.

I WOULD NEVER HAVE LET YOU GO...

プルル♪
プルル♪
SFX: RING
THIS IS ASOU
H-HELLO?
WAIT A SECOND I'LL TURN ON THE LIGHT.
I'VE FOUND OUT SHIMATANI'S ADDRESS.
IN NAGANO PREFECTURE
OKAY
SFX: VROOM

AGAWA!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO HOLD ON!?

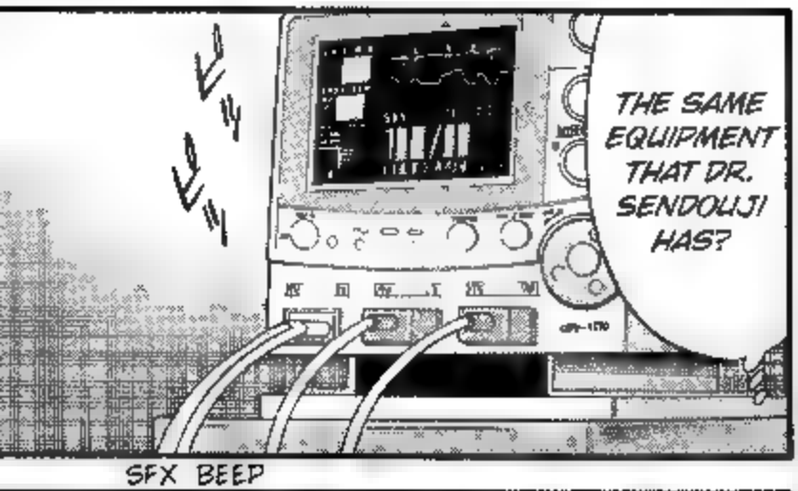
CRASH!
THUMP!

AGAWA-
KUN!?

NOOOOOOO!
WHAT'S WRONG

AGAWA-
KUN!

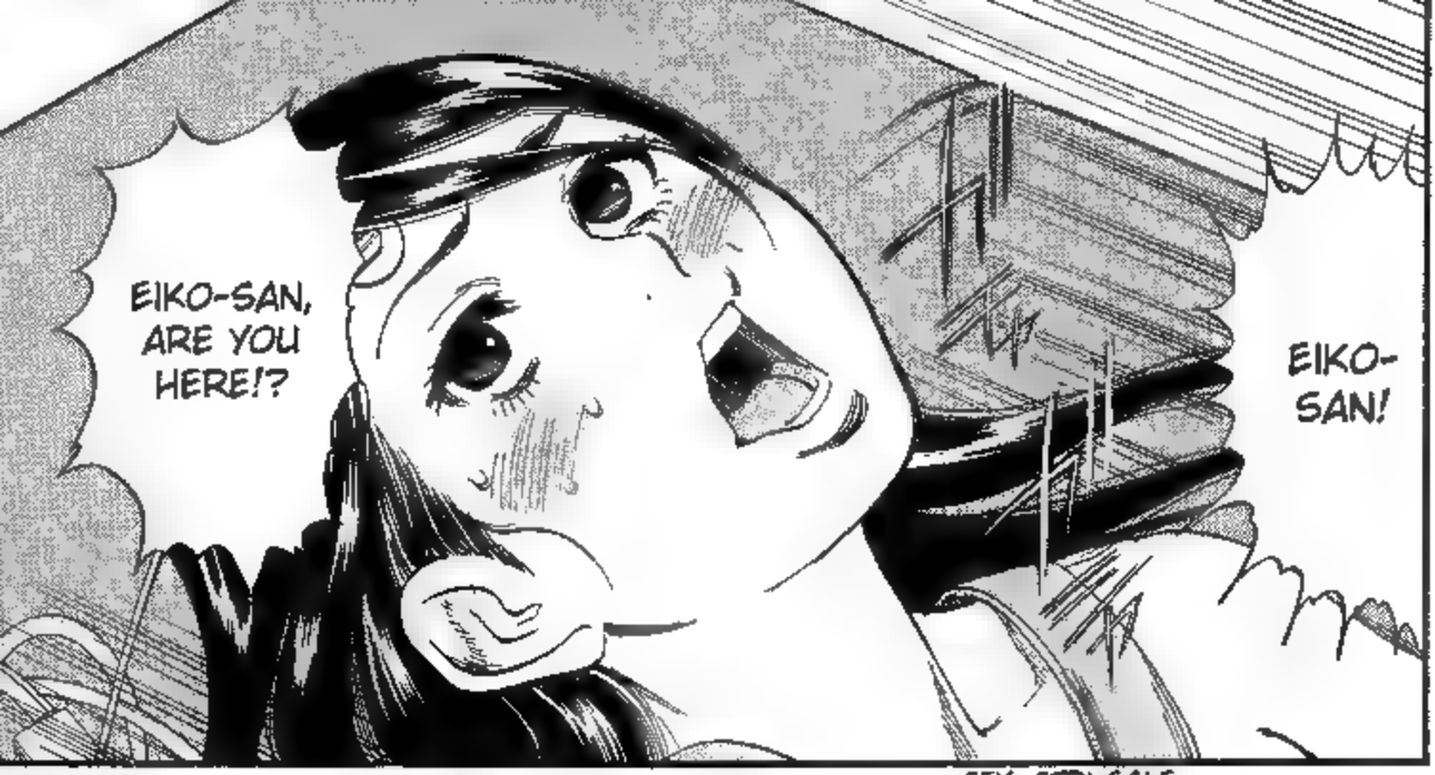
SFX:
AH!


THE SAME EQUIPMENT THAT DR. SENDOUJI HAS?
SFX BEEP

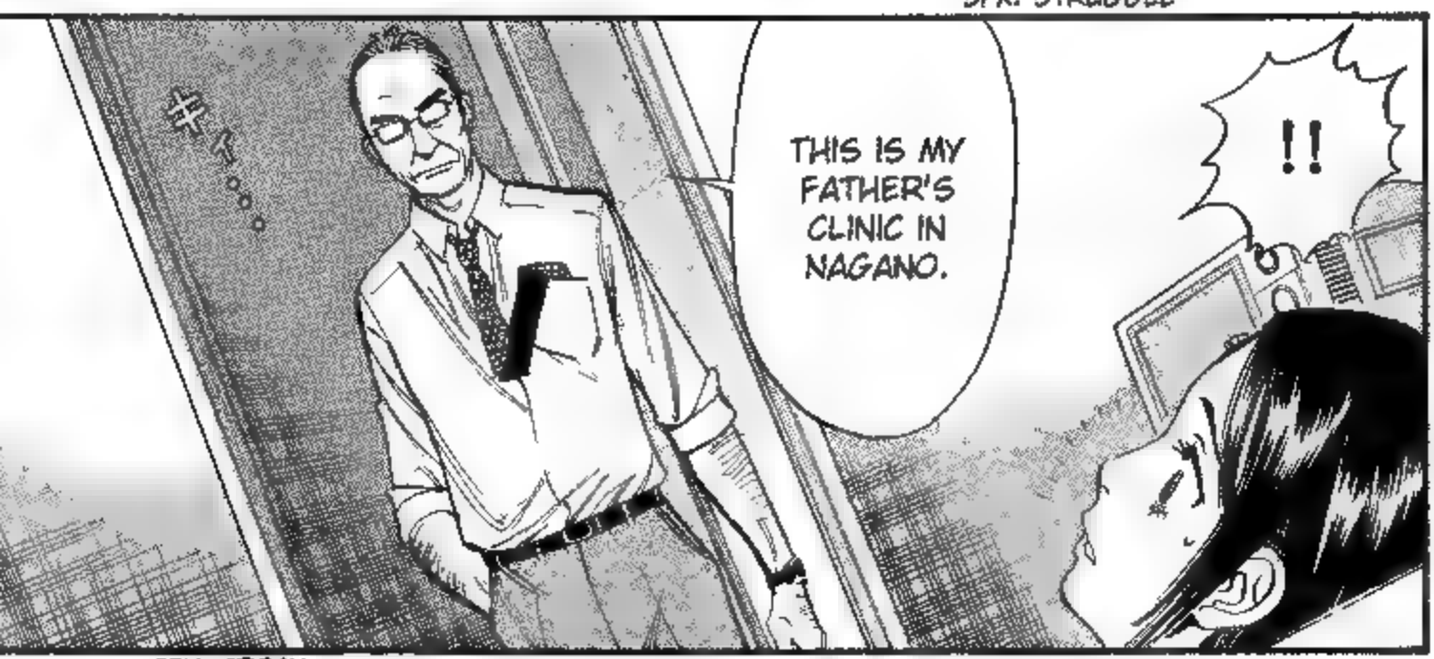
SFX:
LOOK
AROUND

A HOS-PITAL ...?

!!
SFX SHAKE
SFX SQUISH
SFX WIGGLE
WH-WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?
SFX STRUGGLE
WH-WHAT IS THIS!?

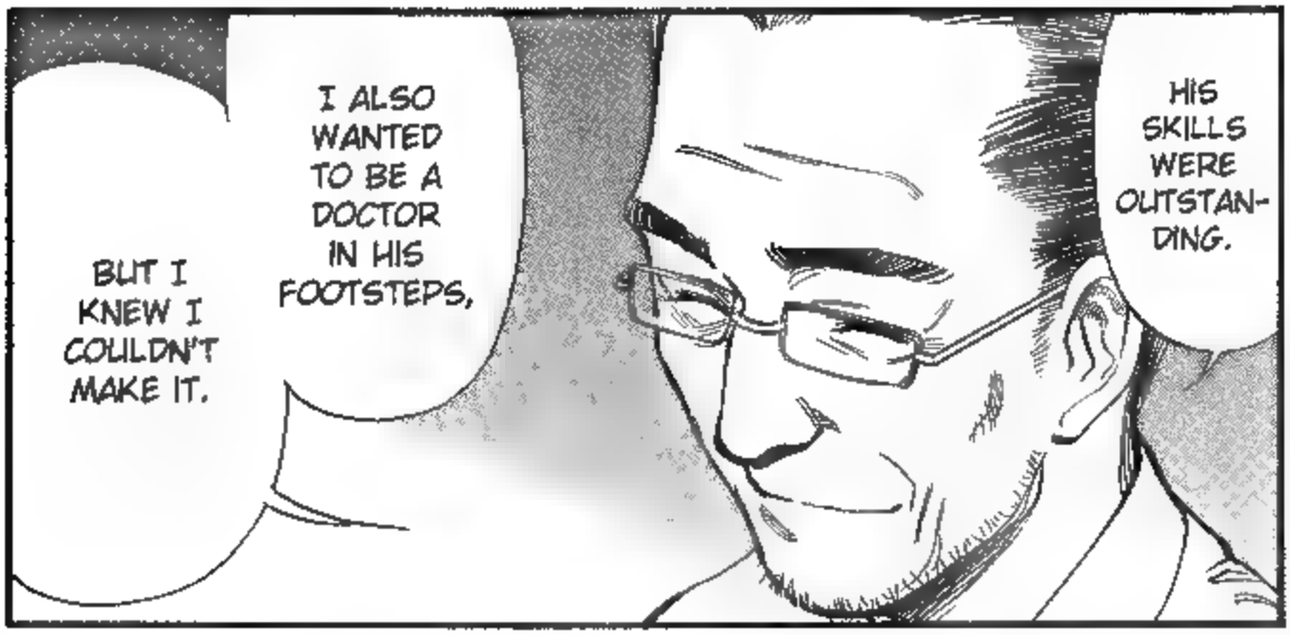


SFX: STRUGGLE

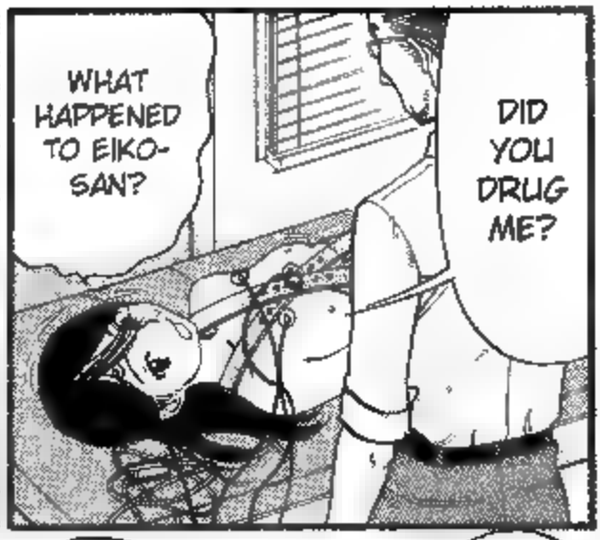


SFX: CREAK..

EVERYONE ADMIRED HIM AS A PHYSICIAN.
BUT,
PATIENTS IN THIS NEIGHBOUR-HOOD STILL WANT HIM TO RETURN.
IT'S PRACTICALLY OUT OF BUSINESS.
NOW THAT HE'S BEEN HOSPITAL-ISED IN TOKYO,


HIS SKILLS WERE OUTSTAN-DING.
I ALSO WANTED TO BE A DOCTOR IN HIS FOOTSTEPS,
BUT I KNEW I COULDN'T MAKE IT.

SO I TOOK HER HERE WITH US.
SHE'S NO LONGER USEFUL, BUT IT'D BE A BOTHER IF SHE STARTED POKING HER NOSE INTO MY AFFAIRS,


WHAT HAPPENED TO EIKO-SAN?
DID YOU DRUG ME?

MY FATHER'S TERMIN-ALLY ILL.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?

SHE'S SLEEPING IN THE HALLWAY THANKS TO A DRUG.

HE'S TOO BIG
BUT I'M AFRAID
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY OF SURVIVAL IF WE DO AN OPERATION ON THE ASPHYXIA IN [illegible]
FOR HIS BODY TO ENDURE THE OPERATION
DON'T TELL ME

IF I LEARN THE SECRET OF YOUR DE-AGING,
I MIGHT BE ABLE APPLY IT TO HIS BODY.
SO...

SO, I NEED DATA FROM THE EXACT MOMENT WHEN YOUR BODY SHRINKS.
EVERY BIOCHEMICAL DATUM FROM RESPIRATION, BLOOD CIRCULATION, CHANGES IN THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM, YOUR INTESTINES AND YOUR CHROMOSOMES TO YOUR DNA!
AH! IF I CAN, I'LL BE EAGER TO OBSERVE THE TRANS-FORMATION OF YOUR BODY WITH MY OWN EYES!

S-STOP, PLEASE!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS IT'S JUST IMPOS-SIBLE!?
HOW CAN YOU DEVISE A MEDICINE WITH THIS DATA IN SUCH A SHORT TIME!?

TH-THEN, ARE YOU TELLING ME TO DO NOTHING BUT WATCH... MY FATHER DIE!?
WHEN YOU'RE AVAIL-ABLE ...!!

SHUT UP!

SFX: GRAB

SFX: TWITCH

.....

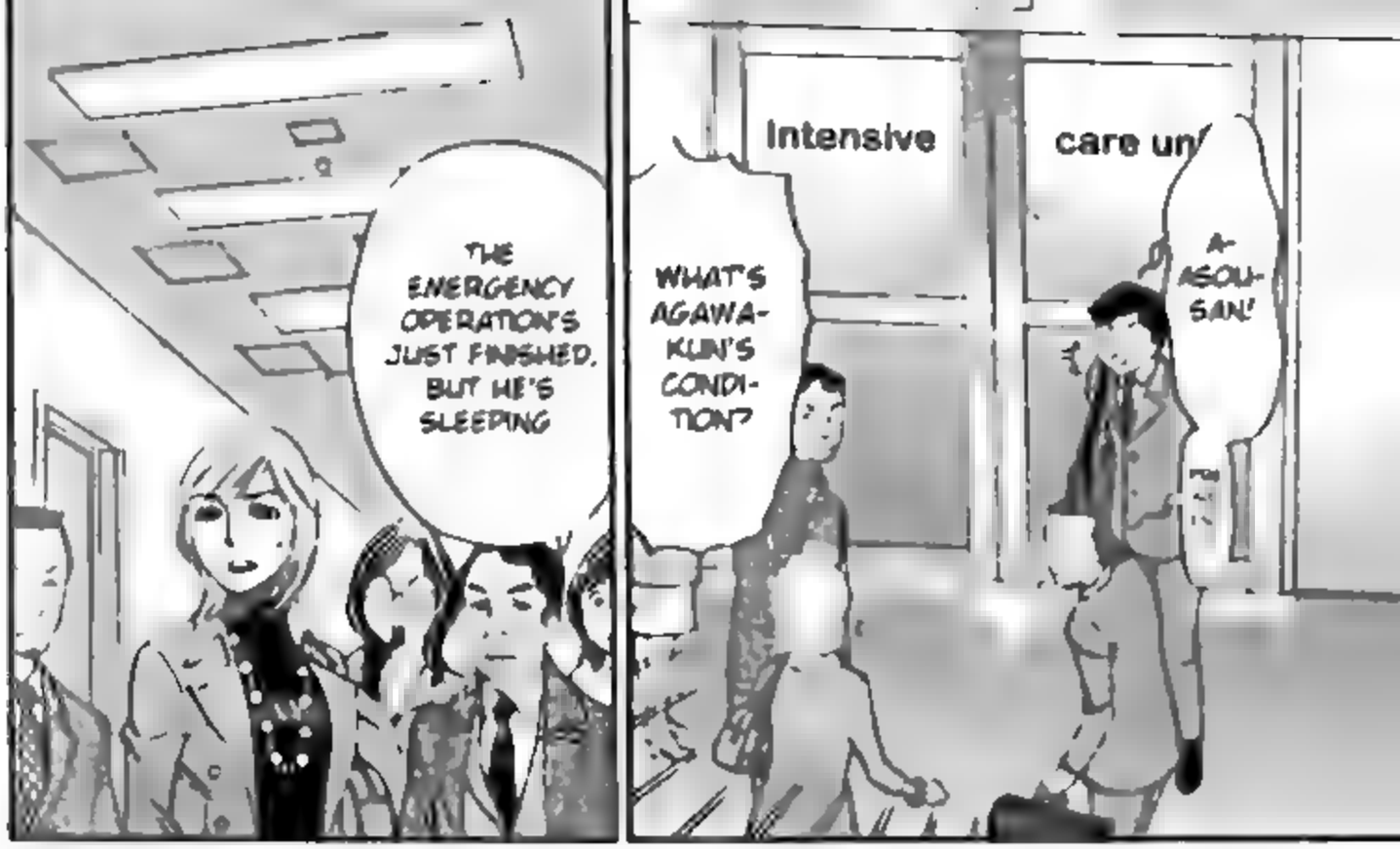
TH-THIS SENSATION IS...!
I'M GOING TO SHRINK AGAIN!
I'M SHRIN-KING!
HAA!
HAA!
HAA!
IT'S THE SAME SENS-ATION AS I FELT LAST TIME!

WH-WHAT ARE THESE STRANGE SPIKES ON THE BED?
I WANT TO GO BACK RIGHT NOW!
NO! PLEASE RELEASE ME!

MY FATHER CAN'T COME BACK IF HE DIES!
MY FATH-ER!
SHRINKING IS THE ONLY THING THAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU!
I WANT TO GO BACK
TO AGA-WA-SAN!

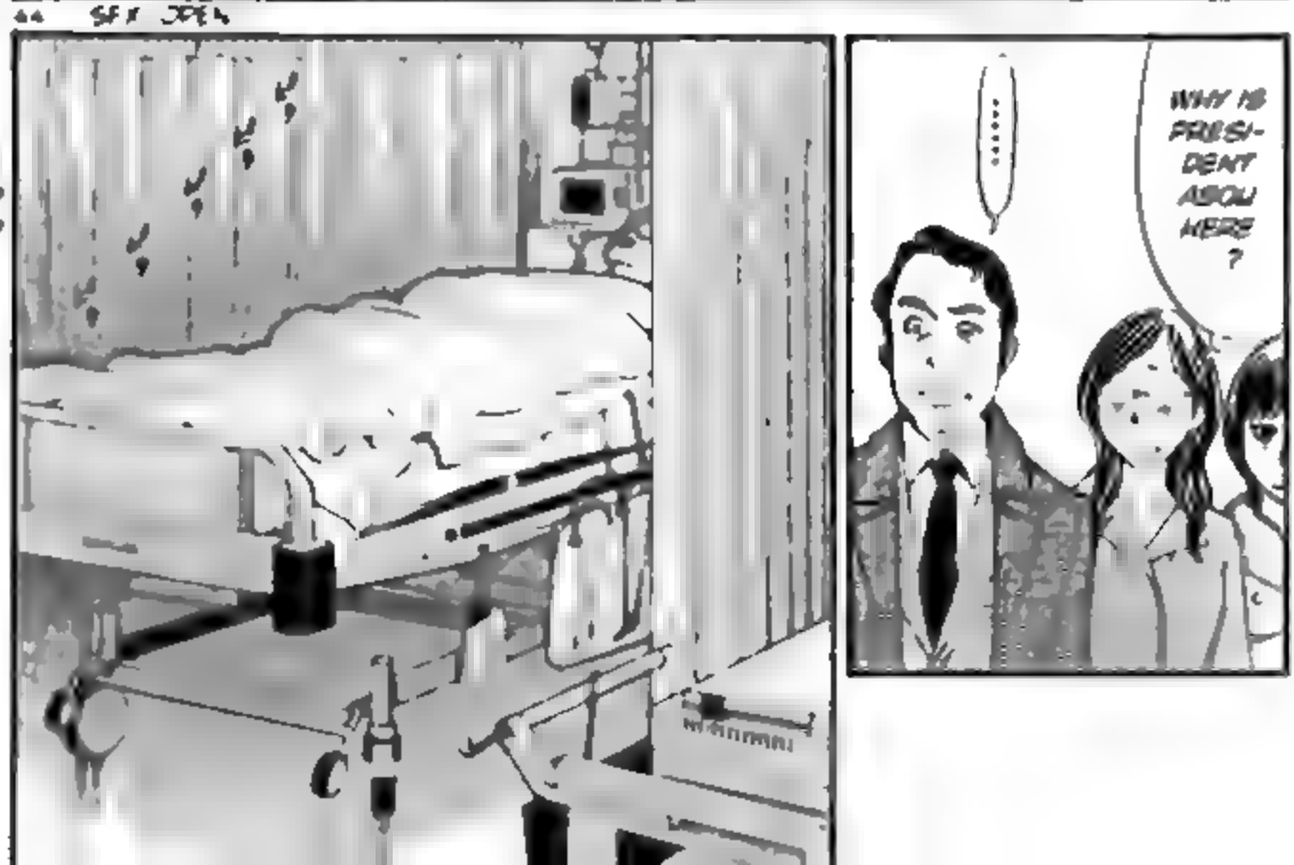
AGAWA-
SAN!

AGAWA-
KUN!


THE EMERGENCY OPERATION'S JUST FINISHED. BUT HE'S SLEEPING
WHAT'S AGAWA-KUN'S CONDI-TION?
Intensive
care un
A-ASOU-SAN!

Y-YOU CAN'T GO IN YET
HE'S HEAVILY WOUNDED, BUT THERE'S NO INTERNAL INJURY IT SEEMS IT'S NOT LIFE-THREATENING

44 SFX OPEN


SFX BEEP BEEP
.....
WHY IS PRESI-DENT ASOU HERE ?

.....
RIGHT ...
I GET IT.
OKAY ...
HE CAN'T KISS... THE PRINCESS.
BUT AS LONG AS THE PRINCE'S ASLEEP,

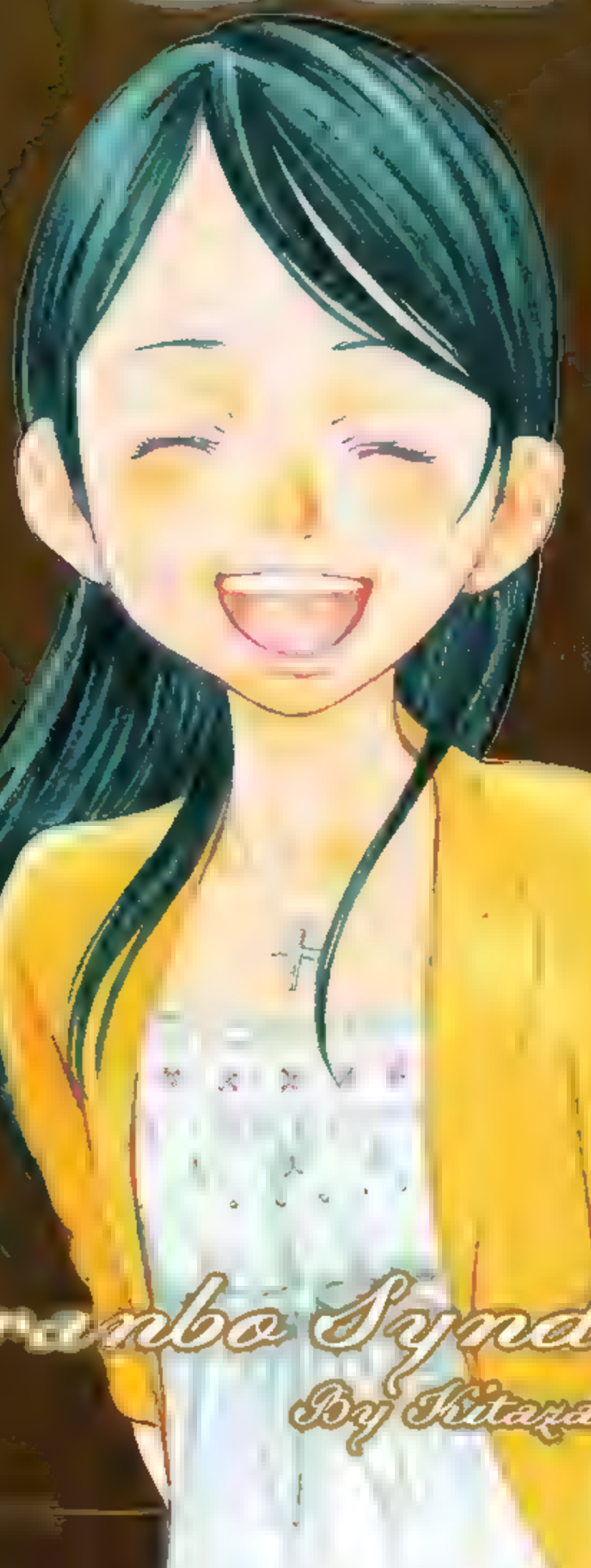
.....

MY "MORNING CALL" KISS
FU FU.
LET'S CALL IT

Intensive
I'LL MAKE SURE TO BRING REINA BACK TO YOUR SIDE
SO WAKE UP BY THEN!

Cleaning:
Zujids
Raws:
YandereS, Shiratori
Typesetting:
mesdagar
Translation:
anonymous preferred
Redraw:
Zujids
Proofreading:
Volandum

11

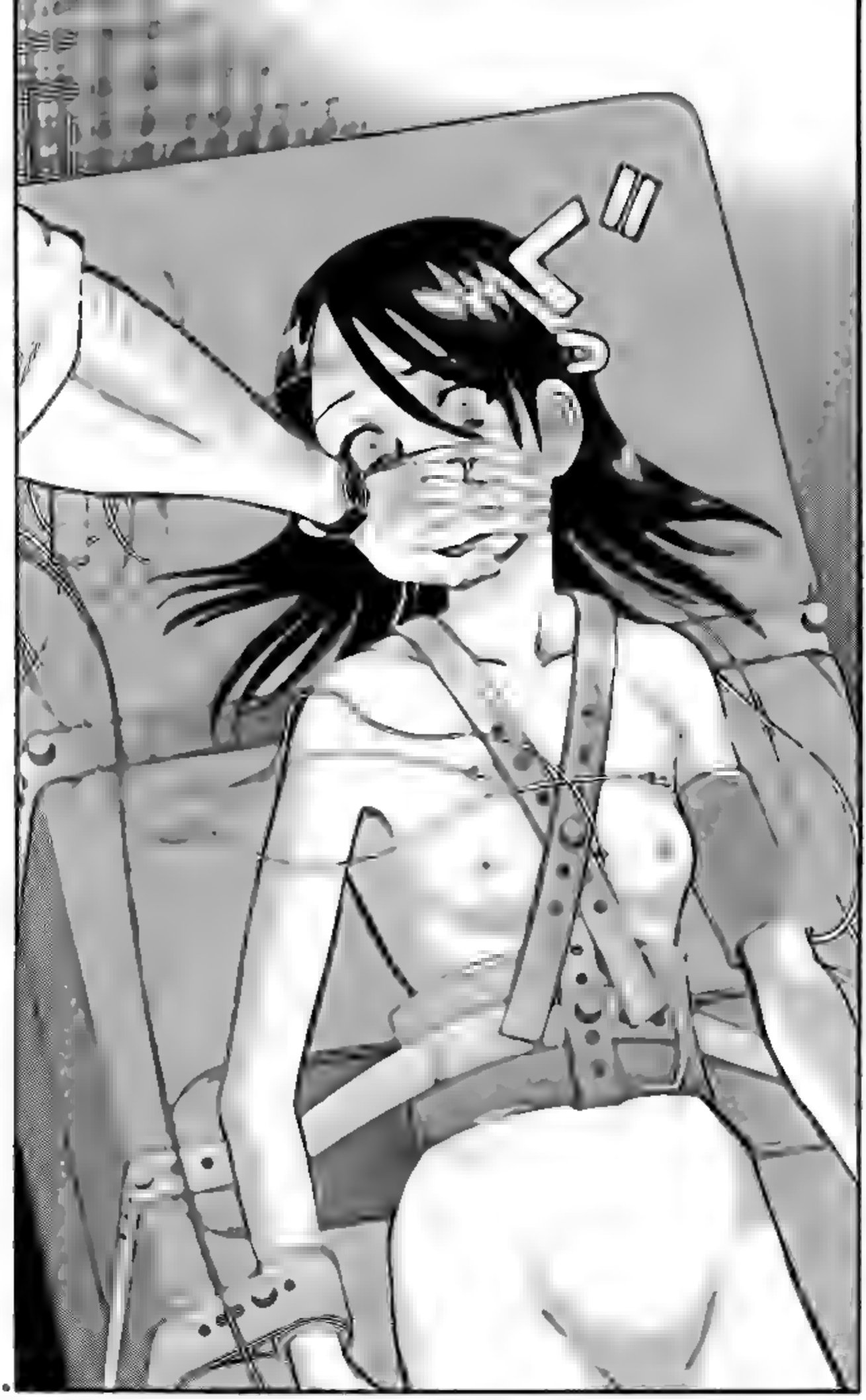


Sakurambo Syndrome

By Kitazaki Tooru

SOME-BODY HELP ME!
I'LL GO BACK TO BEING A CHILD!
STOP IT!
NO! NO!
CHARARA
CHANCHARA
LET GO OF ME!
HELLO.
Chapter 95:
I'm back ♡

Chapter 95:
I'm back♡



AS YOU ASKED!
I TRIED TO STOP AGAWA
BUT THAT IDIOT HIT THE KERB AND HIS CAR FLIPPED OVER.
I JUST WANTED TO SCARE HIM A LITTLE
I'LL REWARD YOU LATER
THANK YOU, UMETSU-KUN.
WHAT SHOULD I DO, SHIMA-TANI-SAN?
I'M NOT SURE IF HE SURV-IVED
OH GOD!
SHIMA-TANI-SAN! WHAT SHOULD I DO?
LET'S TALK ABOUT THE DETAILS AT WORK
GOOD LUCK

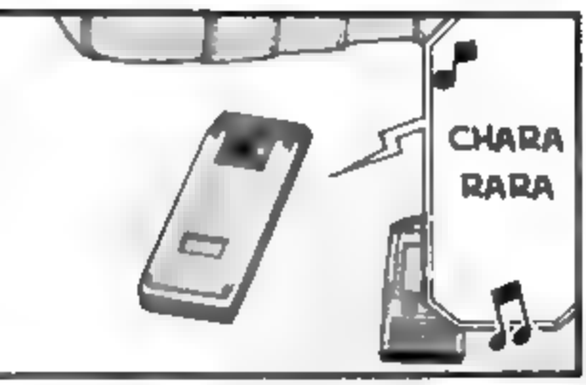
FUU
I MUSTN'T GO TO SLEEP...
HAA
SFX: GROWL
HAA
HAA
HAA
SFX: GROWL
I'LL SHRINK IN MY SLEEP...
AS LONG AS I'M AWAKE...
I CAN DELAY IT... HOWEVER LITTLE...
SFX: BEEP, BREATHE WEAKLY
AGAWA-SAN!
PLEASE SAVE ME!
AGAWA-SAN...

I HOPE YOU'RE SAFE!
RENA!

NO,
NEITHER WAY WORKS.

SHOULD I CALL THE POLICE AND ASK THEM TO PROTECT RENA?

SHOULD I CALL SHIMA-TAN!?
OR ...


CHARA RARA

!
RENA'S MOBILE?

I'VE GOT TO GO CHECK THE PLACE MYSELF.

IF HE FINDS OUT I'M LOOKING FOR THEM, HE MIGHT TAKE RENA INTO HIDING.
IF THE POLICE LOSES THEM THIS TIME, I CAN'T RELY ON THEIR HELP NEXT TIME.

ABOU SPEAK-ING
HEL-LO?
AH
.....
...
.....
SEN-DOUJI-SAN?
I WONDER IF I COULD FIGURE OUT THE ULTIMATE SECRET OF REJUVENATION IF I INTERPRET IT CORRECTLY
I-I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A THING BEFORE
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS THAT IT'S JUST IMPOSS-IBLE?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THE CONCEN-TRATION OF OXYGEN IN YOUR ARTERIAL BLOOD HAS CHANGED SO RADICALLY!

I'LL DIE AFTER A FEW SEIZURES.
WITHOUT AGAWA-KUN
YOU DON'T HAVE MANY CHANCES LEFT TO OBSERVE MY BODY.
SO SEND ME BACK TO HIM!
I PROMISE TO HELP YOU SAVE YOUR FATHER...
OWW !?
9
FU FU ...
I DON'T NEED HIM ANY MORE.
WELL, YOU WON'T SEE HIM EVE-

SO YOU DIDN'T EXPECT ME TO WAKE UP FROM THAT DOSE.
EIKO-SAN!
OW WW WW WW !!
ゴゴゴ
!!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAIT-ING.
I'LL RELEASE YOU IMMEDI-ATELY.

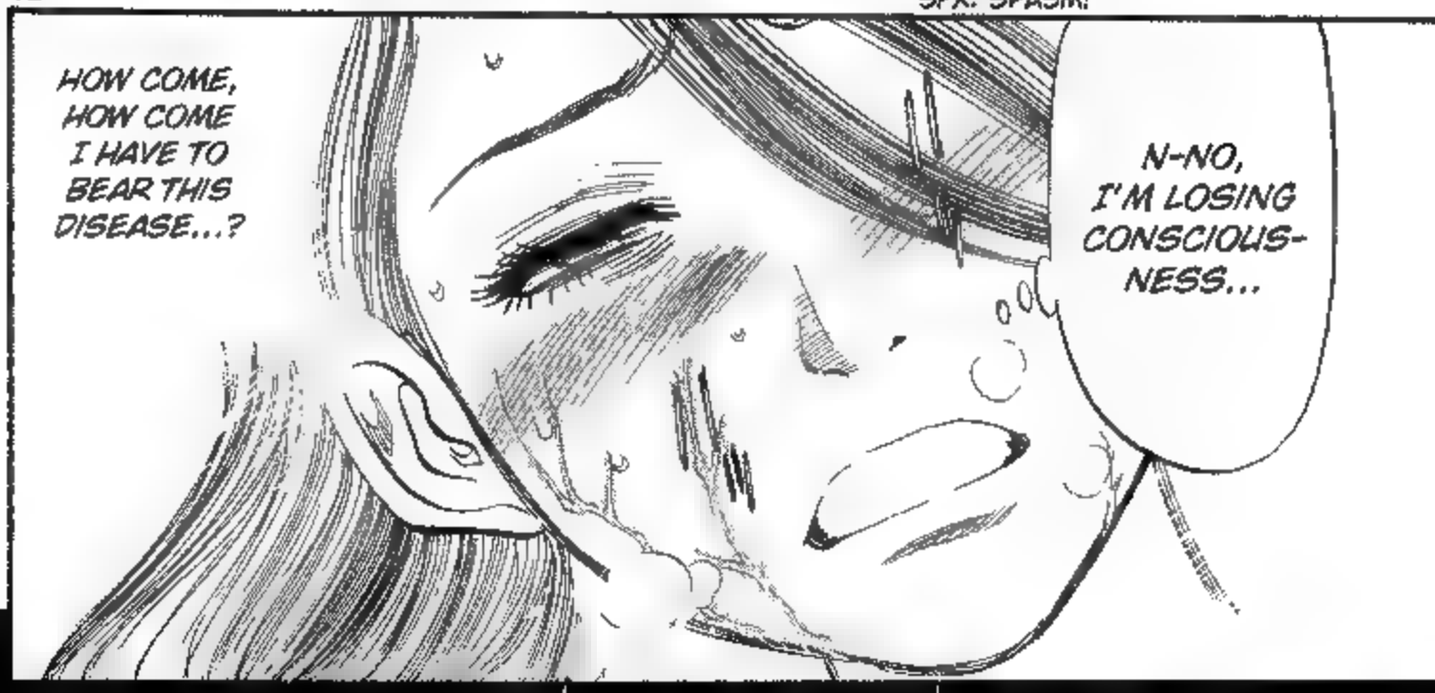
OUCH!
ゴキッ
EIKO-SAN!?
SFX CHARGE

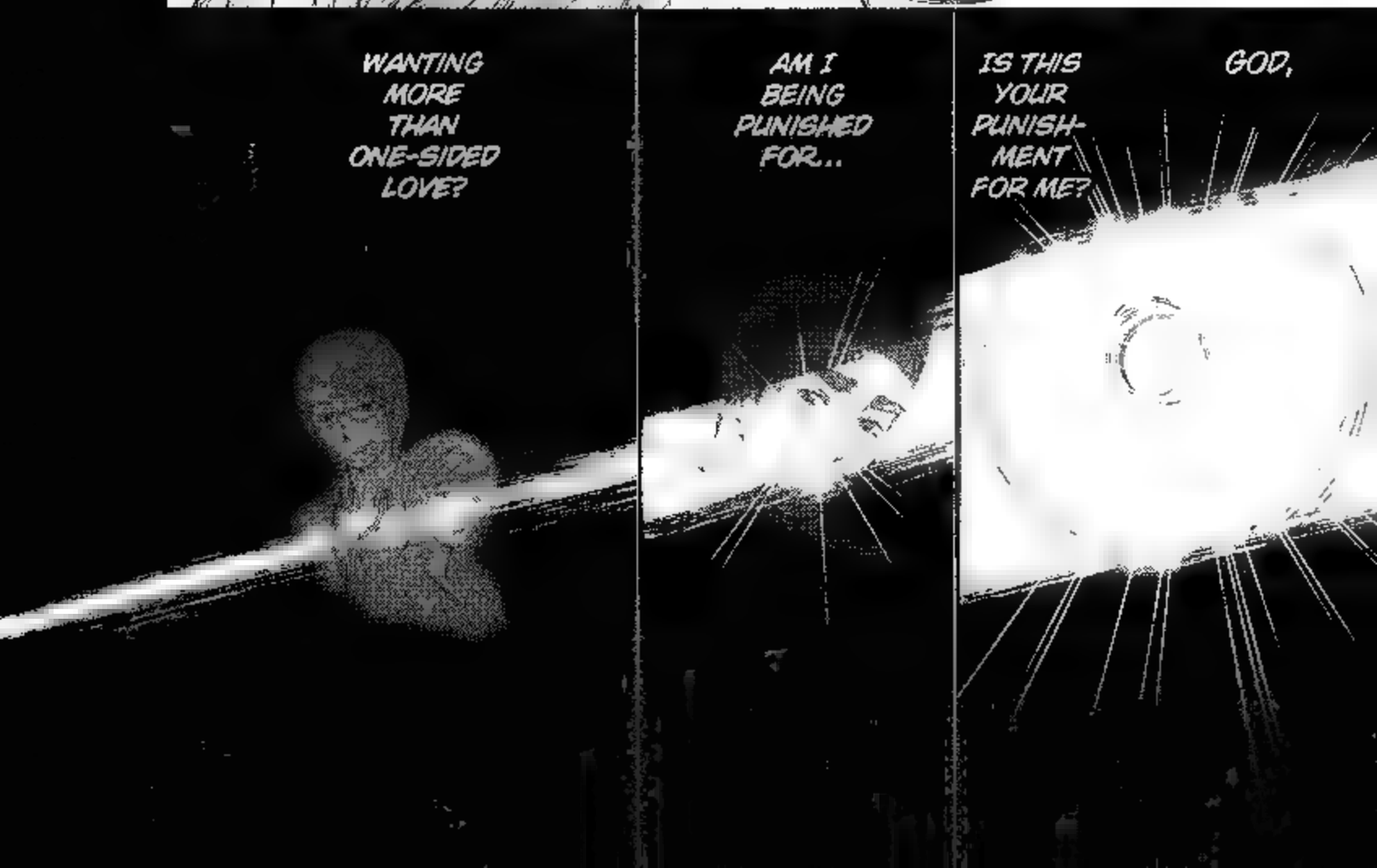
ENOUGH WITH YOUR ATTITUDE!
TRY TO OVER-COME A MAN!?
HOW DARE A WO-MAN...
YOU FUCK-ING BITCH!
SFX: KICK
GYAH!
PLEASE STOP!
STOP!
EIKO-SAN!
IF I HADN'T BEEN SICK, NO ONE WOULD'VE GOTTEN HURT.
Haa Haa
DUE TO MY SICK-NESS.
THIS IS ALL

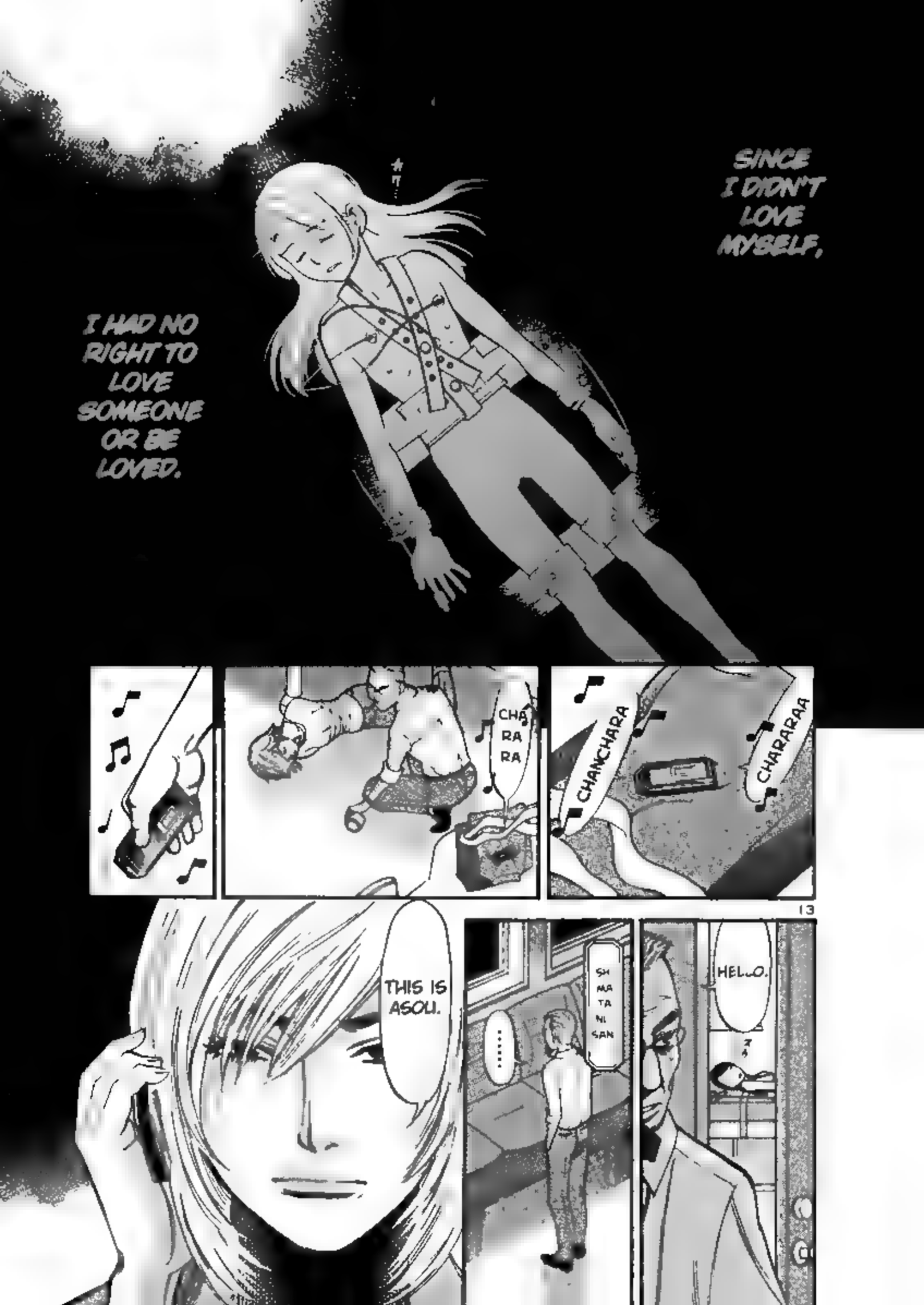
GUU
HMM
...
!!

12

SFX: SPASM!


HOW COME, HOW COME I HAVE TO BEAR THIS DISEASE...?
N-NO, I'M LOSING CONSCIOUS-NESS...


WANTING MORE THAN ONE-SIDED LOVE?
AM I BEING PUNISHED FOR...
IS THIS YOUR PUNISH-MENT FOR ME?
GOD,


SINCE I DIDN'T LOVE MYSELF,
I HAD NO RIGHT TO LOVE SOMEONE OR BE LOVED.
CHA RA RA
CHANCHARA
CHARARAA
THIS IS ASOU.
SH MA TA NI SAN
HEL.O.

Tap...
SHA-TTER
ガチャ
SFX SHATTER
THIS IS TRES-PASSING
I JUST HEARD THE GLASS SMASH FROM YOUR PHONE AS WE...
HAVEN'T YOU KID-NAPPED A GIRL?
5
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SUCH AN IMPULSIVE WOMAN.
SO YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR CAREER ANY MORE?
キシ
キシ
キシ
SFX: CREAK

BOTH.
OF COURSE.
!
SFX PEEK
SFX: CLICK
I KNEW YOU WERE HERE!
RENA!
RENA!

SFX SLAP
ASOU-SAN!
ASOU-SAN!
SFX FALL

IT'S YOU.
WHO ARE BEING VERY IMPULSIVE HERE.
YOU'RE FINI-SHED.
I'M CALLING THE POLICE.

I'VE ALWAYS SAID YOU SHOULD GET THINGS DONE WHEN YOU CAN.
FUFU... THIS PUNCHLINE MIGHT BE TOO HACKNEYED FOR THE HEAD OF THE PR DEPARTMENT, BUT...
I'LL MAKE YOU REGRET THIS IN YOUR NEXT LIFE.

I BROUGHT ANOTHER MOBILE PHONE.
Calling...
Nagano Central Police Station
.....
THERE'S NO SUB-ORDINATE WHO HAS LEARNED THE WAY YOU HANDLE BUSINESS BETTER THAN I,
RIGHT?

20

THEY'VE BEEN LISTENING TO YOU ALL THIS TIME.
I ALREADY CALLED THE POLICE.
WE'RE THE POLICE!
OPEN THE DOOR!
SFX: KNOCK
SFX: POUNDING KNOCKING

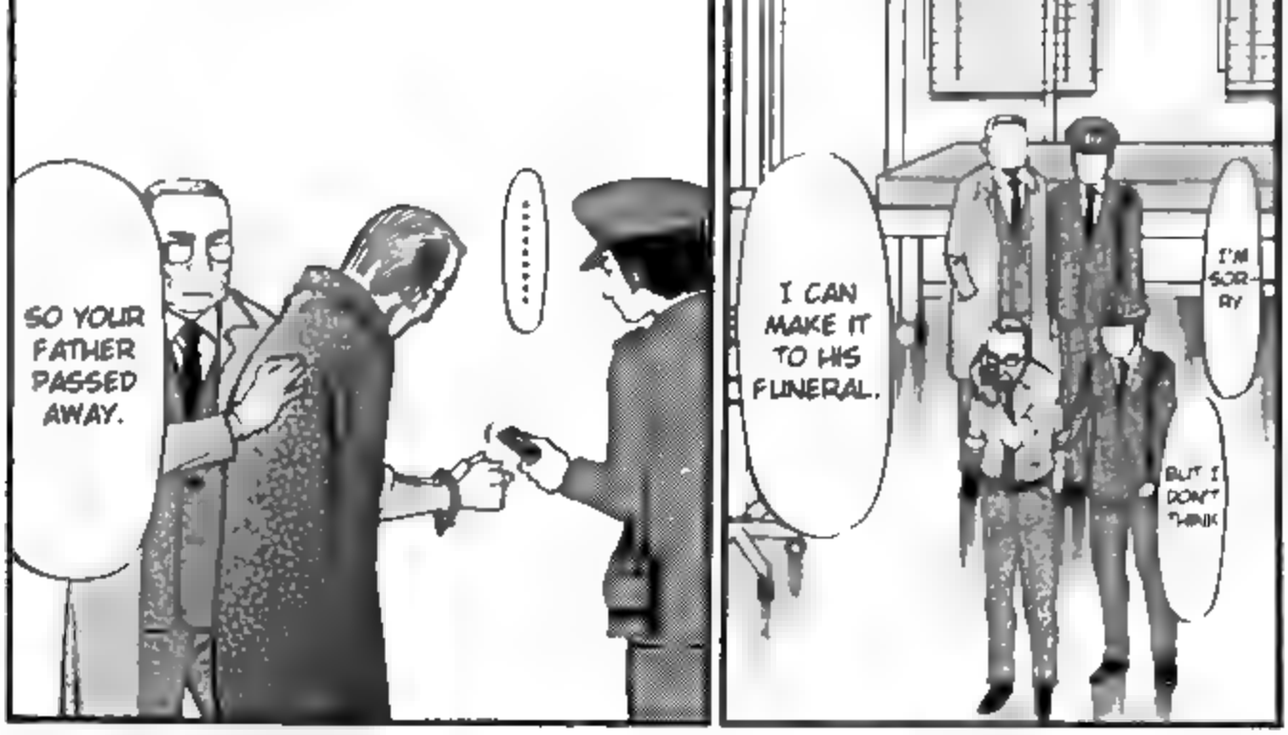
ASOU-SAN...
RENA!
SUS-PECT SECU-RED!
!!! !!!
DON'T MOVE!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR KIDNAPPING, IMPRISON-MENT, AND ASSAULT!
ASOU-SAN!!
ASOU-SAN!

HEL-
LO

THEY TRIED TO REACH HIM, BUT IT SEEMS HIS PHONE WAS BUSY
HERE'S A CALL FOR HIM

YES. THIS IS SHIMATANI SPEAKING

THEY SAID HIS FATHER PASSED AWAY
IT'S A TOKYO HOSPITAL


SO YOUR FATHER PASSED AWAY.
.....
I CAN MAKE IT TO HIS FUNERAL.
I'M SORRY
BUT I DON'T THINK

TO SEND A POOR CHILD LIKE ME TO COLLEGE
A MAN KIND ENOUGH ...
HE'S ACTUALLY... A FATHER-IN-LAW.

I COULD NOT MAKE IT IN TIME.
I'M SORRY
I'M SORRY ...
WEEH ...

I'LL TAKE YOU TO AGAWA-KUN.
HANG IN THERE
RENA!
HE S WAITING IN TOKYO'
AGA-WA-SAN ..
WHERE IS HE?

GET A HOLD OF YOUR-SELF'

SFX: STORM

EVEN THOUGH... I SAID MEAN THINGS TO YOU...
SFX GRAB

I'VE HAD IT
I JUST KNOW I CAN'T MAKE IT IN TIME...

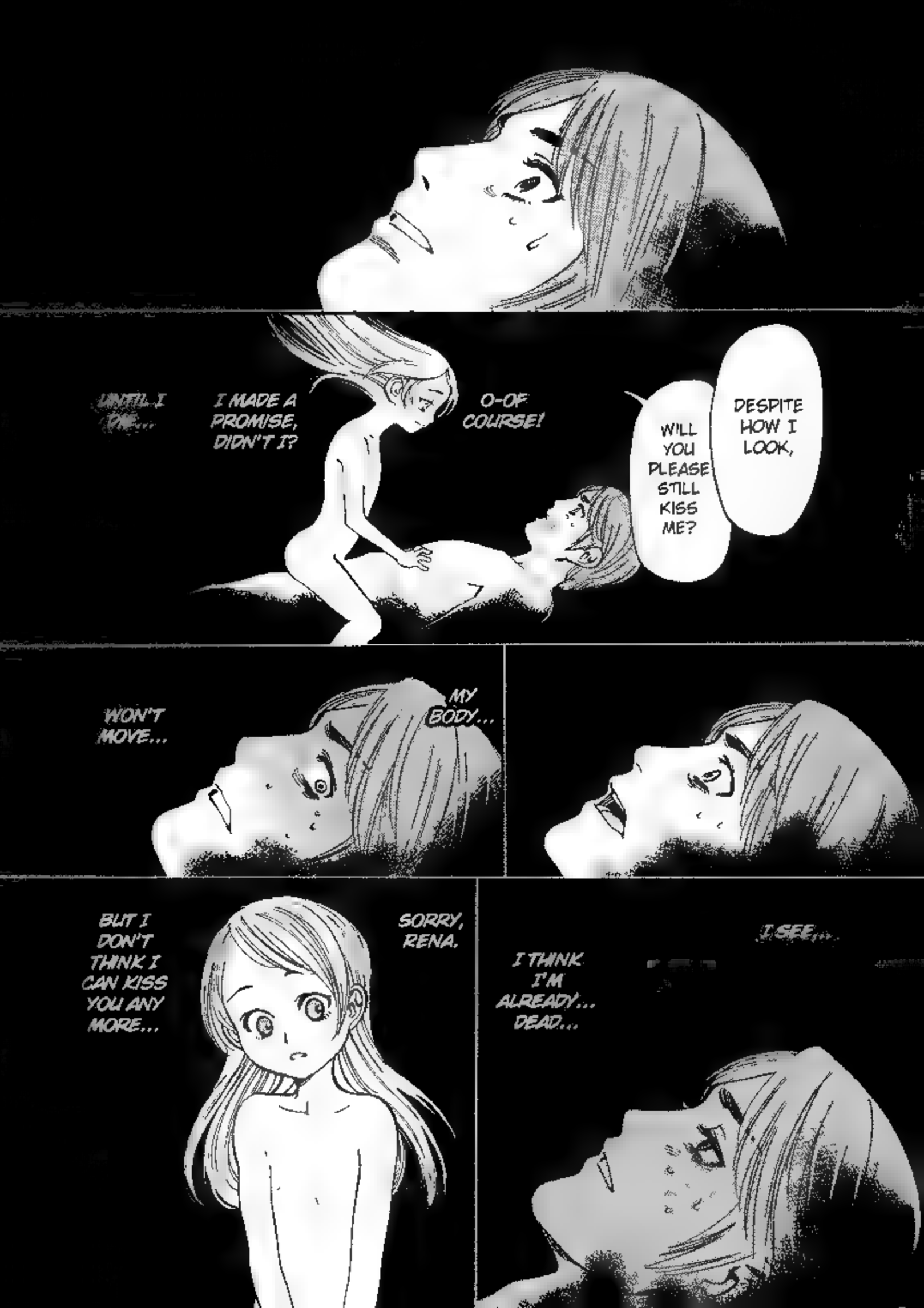
I WAS ALSO IN THE WRONG.
YEAH, I KNOW.
.....
DO WANT THE THREE OF US TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER...
I
I'M SORRY ...
I SAID NASTY THINGS TO YOU.
HEY,
EVEN IF I REVERT TO A BABY...
CAN I LIVE WITH YOU AGAIN?

I'M HAPPY
YOU'LL MOVE INTO MY PLACE THIS TIME
OF COURSE
I'LL ACT LIKE A REAL DAUGHTER.
TO YOU,
AND ASOU-SAN.
WHEN I'M YOUNGER THIS TIME,

RENA!
WAKE UP!
RENA!

RENA!!

RENA...
IS THAT YOU...
ARE YOU SAFELY BACK?
RENA...
AGAWA-SAN ..
I'VE BECOME... SMALLER AGAIN.

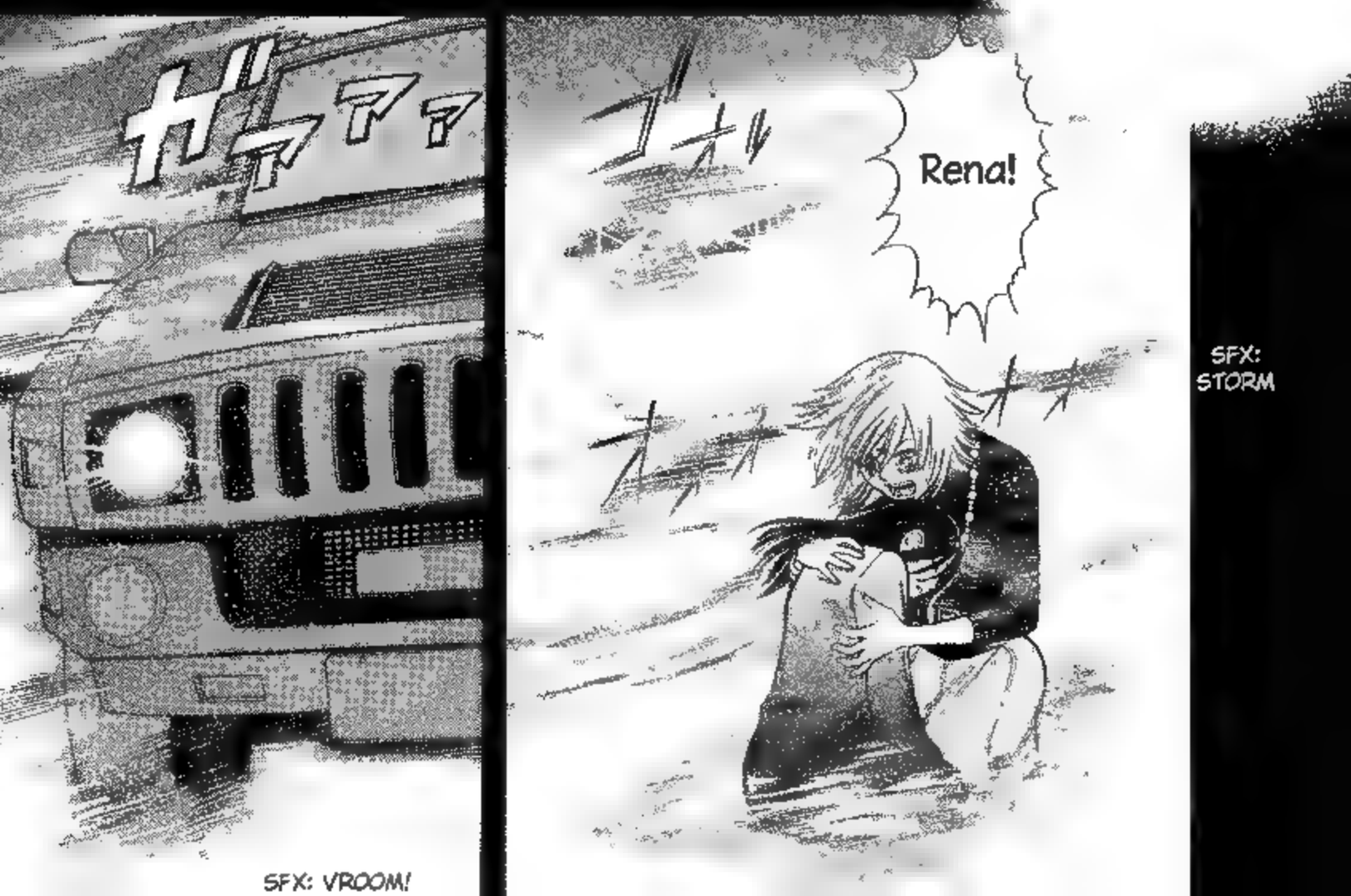

DESPITE HOW I LOOK,
WILL YOU PLEASE STILL KISS ME?
O-OF COURSE!
I MADE A PROMISE, DIDN'T I?
UNTIL I DIE...
MY BODY...
WON'T MOVE...
I SEE...
I THINK I'M ALREADY... DEAD...
SORRY, RENA.
BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN KISS YOU ANY MORE...

WELL THEN,
I'LL BE FOLLOWING YOU VERY SOON.
NO!
DON'T SAY THAT KIND OF THING!
YOU... YOU...
MUST FIND A WAY TO LIVE ON...!
RENA,
YOU MUST LIVE, AND...

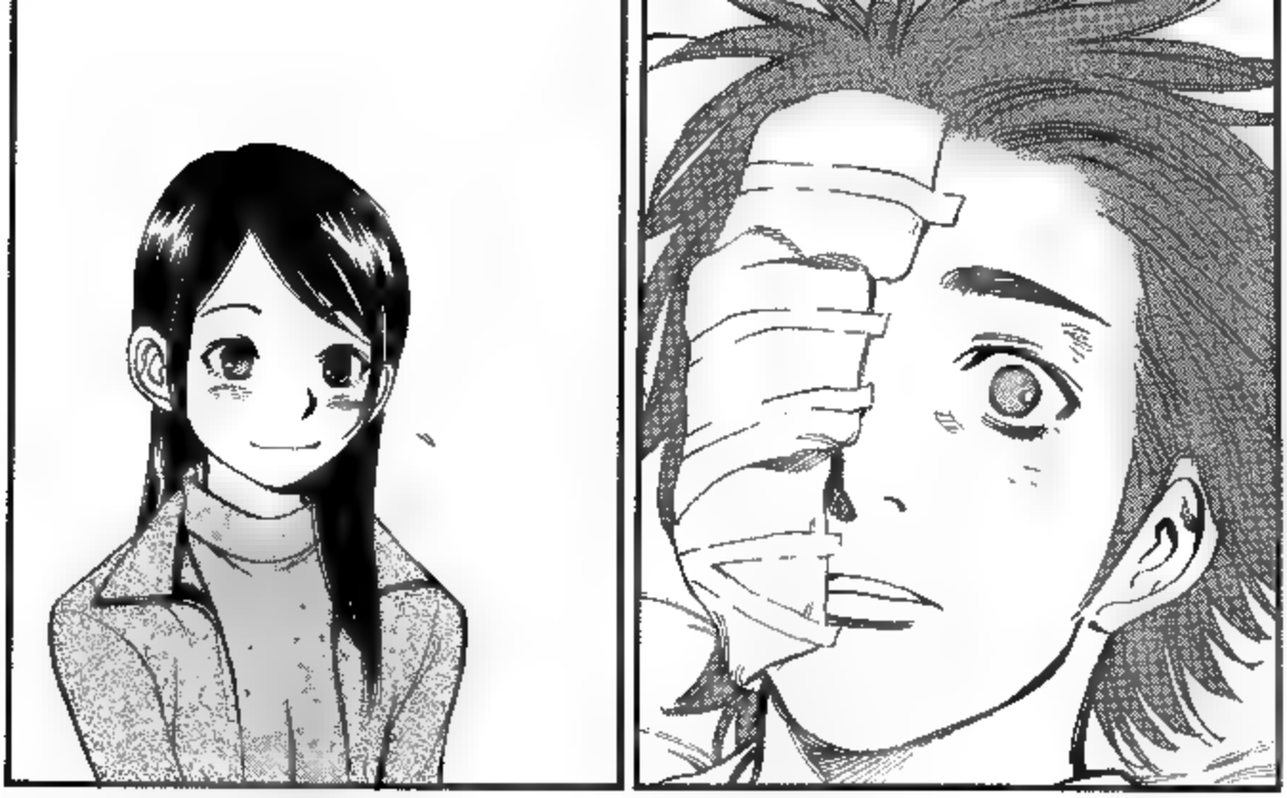
THIS IS OUR LAST KISS.
RENA...
RENA,
RENA, I'M SORRY.

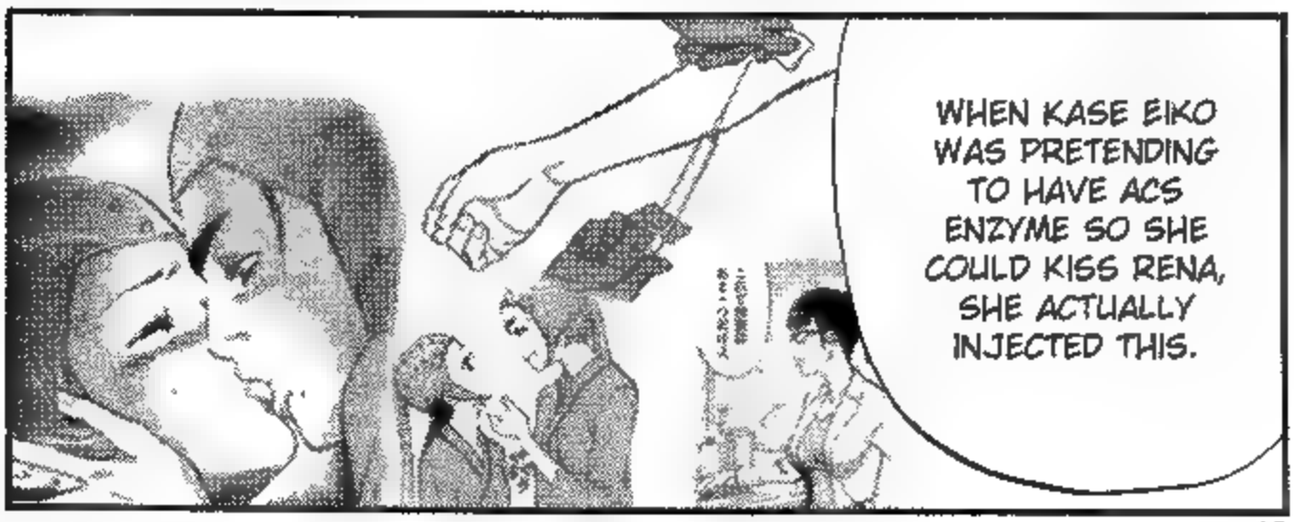
34
AGAWA-SAN.
YOU'VE FINALLY COME TO YOUR SENSES.

YEAH.
YEAH.
YOU'RE STILL THE SAME.
HUH?
RENA.
35
ASOU-SAN...
IT WAS VERY CLOSE.
BUT,


ガアア
SFX: VROOM!
ゴオオ
Rena!
SFX: STORM

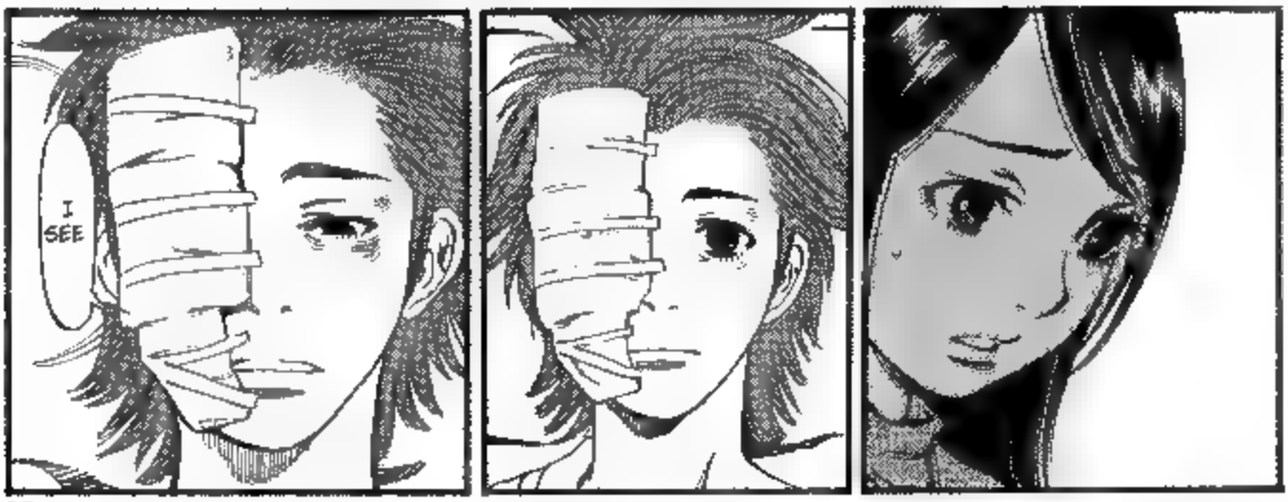
SFX: STORM
Her body is already starting to thrive
SFX: CLANG
This is a vaccine to the CS enzyme that I made by incubating Agawa-san's ACS enzyme

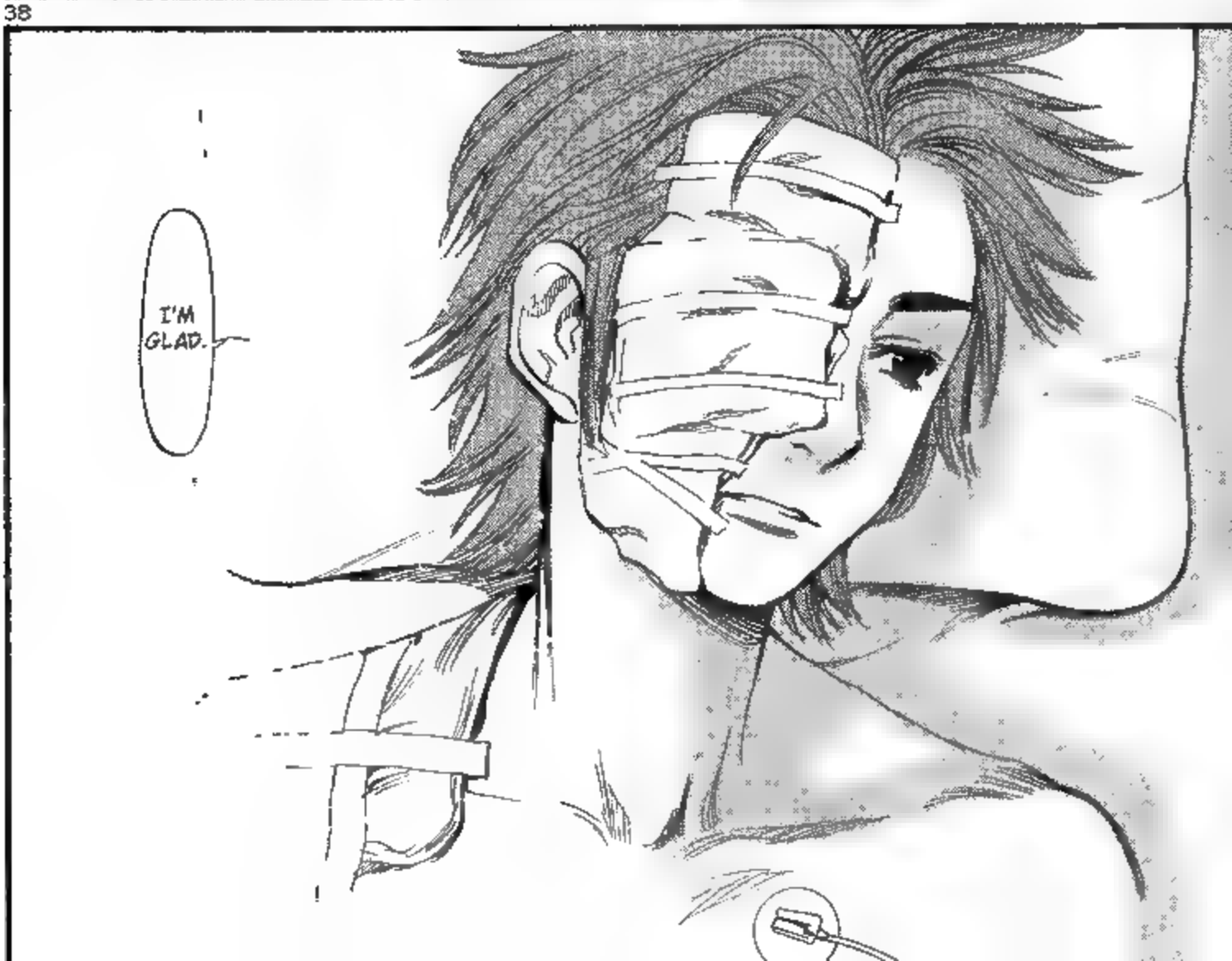



WHEN KASE EIKO WAS PRETENDING TO HAVE ACS ENZYME SO SHE COULD KISS RENA, SHE ACTUALLY INJECTED THIS.

IF YOU GET IT FIVE TIMES A DAY...
BUT, IT CAN REPLACE ME..
SO FIVE INJECTIONS IS AS GOOD AS YOUR KISS.
THIS IS STILL INCOM-PLETE,

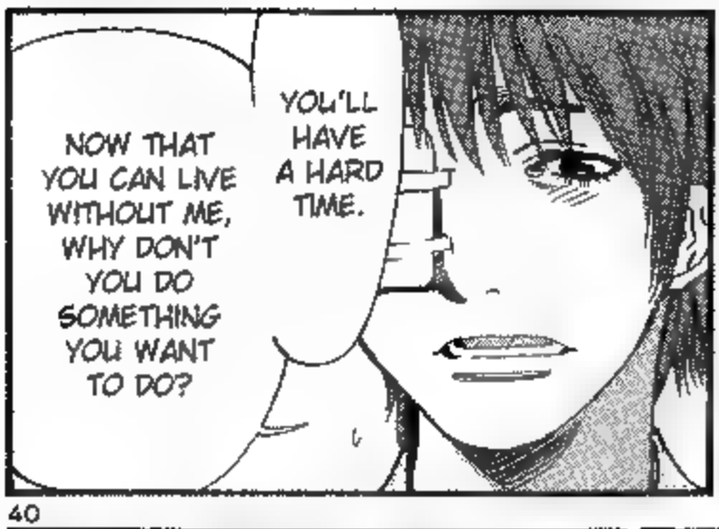
SO WE DON'T NEED TO KISS ANY MORE...
I SEE.


I SEE


I'M GLAD.

WHO HURT YOU, IS GOING ON TRIAL SOON.
THAT SHIMA-TANI GUY,
I HEARD FROM ASOU-SAN. .
I'M THINKING OF FORGIVING HER WITH MY TESTIMONY.
SPEAK-ING OF EIKO-SAN,
SFX: SLICE
39
I WONDER IF I CAN GET BACK TO MY JOB...
EVEN IF I CAN WALK AGAIN,
THE DOCTOR SAID YOU'LL CERTAINLY BE ABLE TO WALK AGAIN EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT TAKE A LONG TIME
AGAWA-SAN, YOU'LL BE IN REHABILI-TATION.
SFX: TAP

I'LL STAY BY YOU AND TAKE CARE OF YOU!
IT'S OKAY!


NOW THAT YOU CAN LIVE WITHOUT ME, WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO?
YOU'LL HAVE A HARD TIME.

FOR-EVER AND EVER.
I'LL STAY WITH YOU...

BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU...

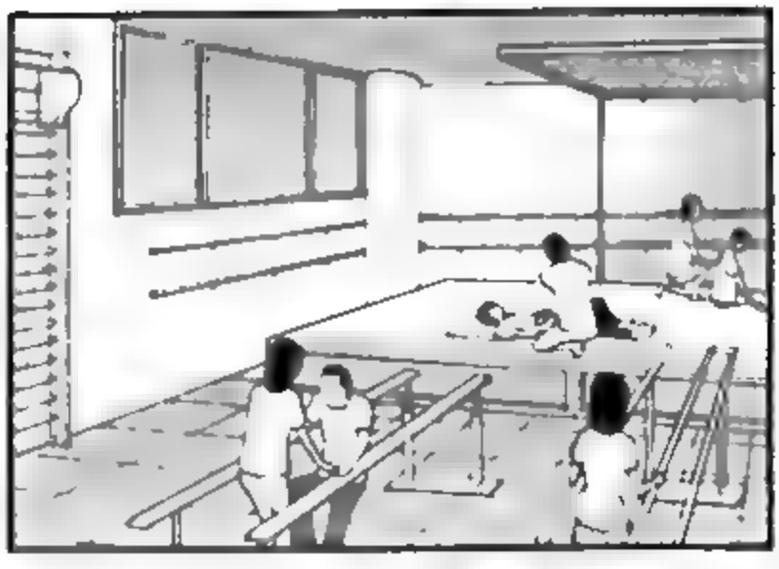
YOU'VE WORKED HARD FOR MY SAKE UP TO NOW,
WELL, THIS IS WHAT I WANT TO DO.
SO NOW IT'S MY TURN.

WE'VE BEEN FATED TO BE TOGETHER THIS FAR.
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM LOVE.
RENA.
41
BUT THE FATE DETER-MINED BY GOD ENDS HERE.

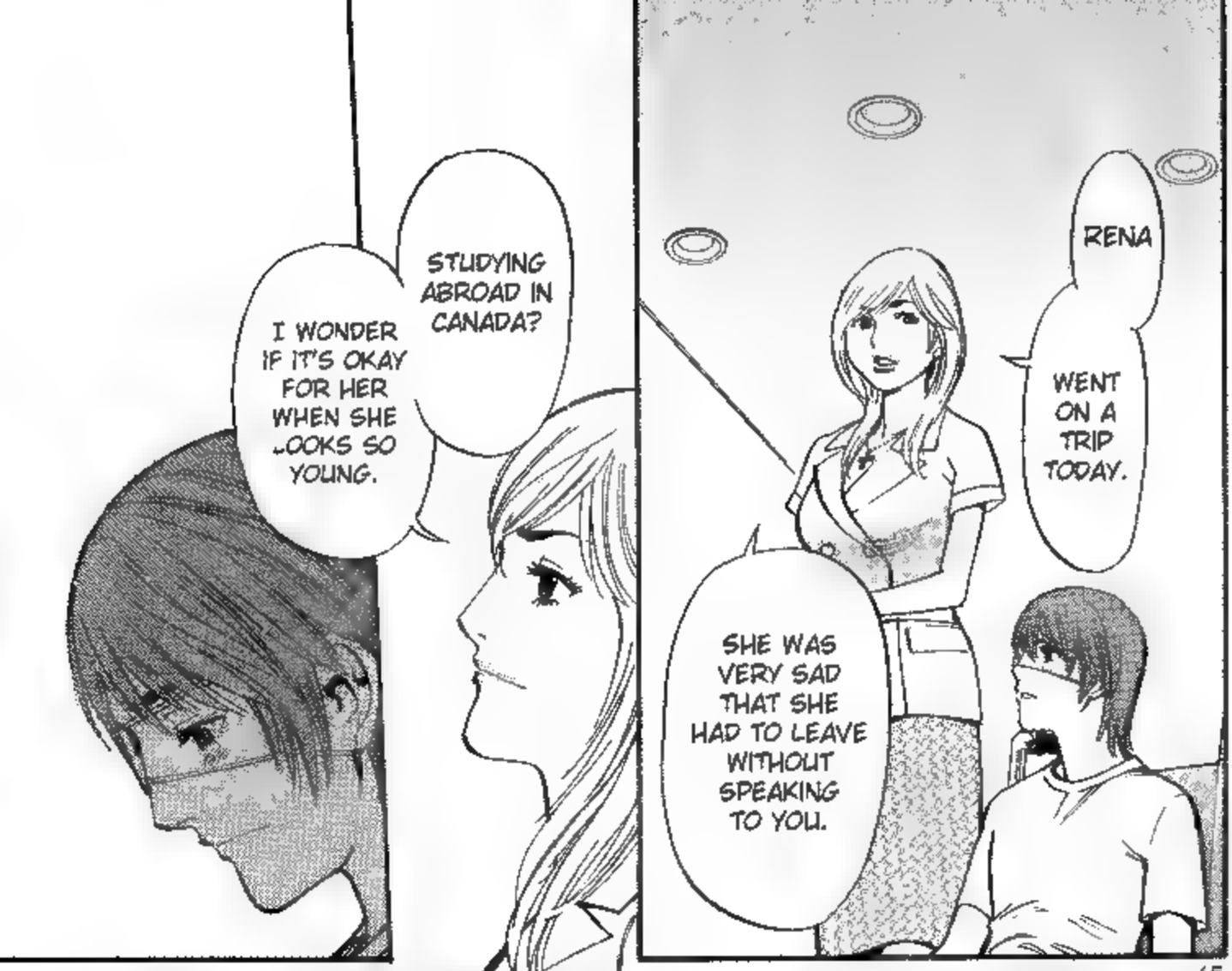
WHAT?
NOW YOU HAVE TO STAND ON YOUR OWN TWO LEGS.
YOU HAVE TO DETERMINE YOUR OWN FATE WITH YOUR POWER ALONE.
B-BUT...
BUT!
IF YOU STILL SAY YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE ME EVEN THOUGH I'VE MADE IT CLEAR,
RENA...

YOU'RE JUST PLAYING THE BABY.

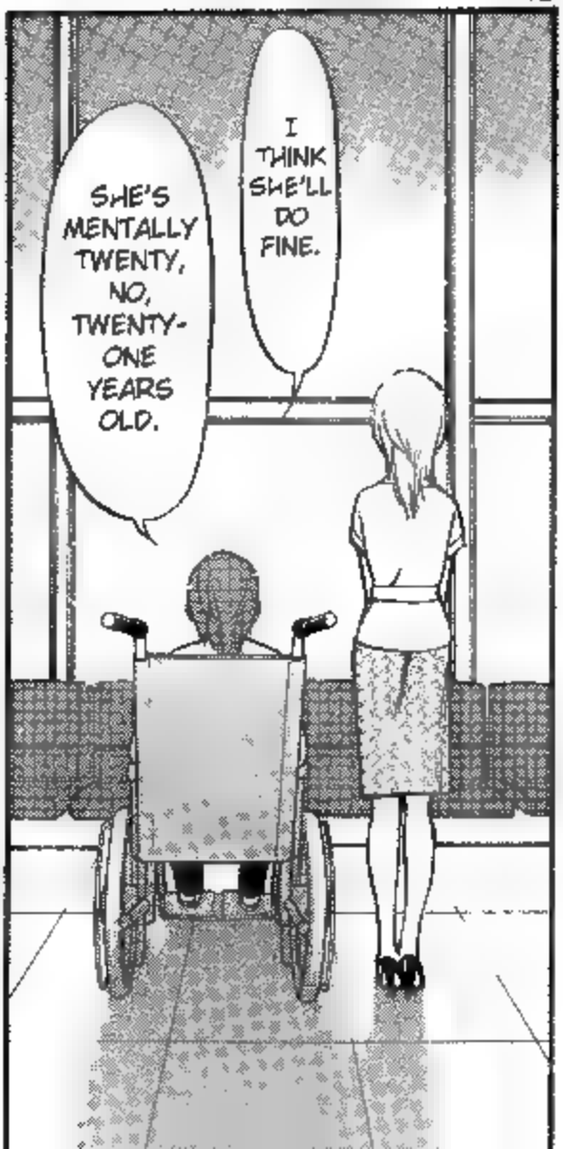
HEY!
HEY!



IT'S STILL HOT
HA AA
HA AA
HA AA


RENA
WENT ON A TRIP TODAY.
SHE WAS VERY SAD THAT SHE HAD TO LEAVE WITHOUT SPEAKING TO YOU.
STUDYING ABROAD IN CANADA?
I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY FOR HER WHEN SHE LOOKS SO YOUNG.

SHE EVEN SAID, WHEN SHE LEFT,
'I WANT TO LIVE TOGETHER WITH YOU AGAIN.'


I THINK SHE'LL DO FINE.
SHE'S MENTALLY TWENTY, NO, TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD.

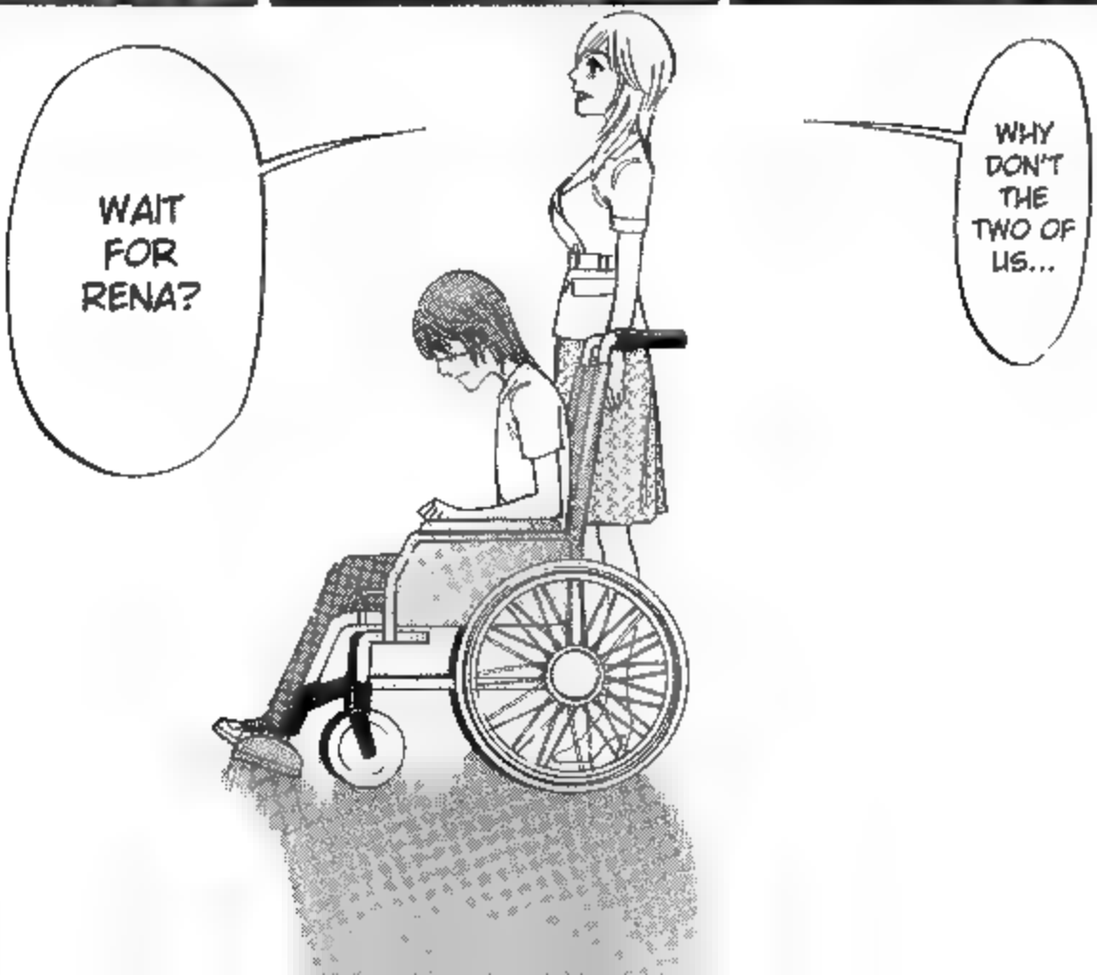
WHEN SHE GROWS UP,
SHE'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE, AND SOON FORGET ME...

BEING AN ADULT IS DIFFERENT FROM...
NOT BEING A CHILD.
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SHE WAS OLDER
THAN SHE LOOKS?
.....
DO YOU THINK SO?
A PERSON BECOMES AN ADULT FOR THE FIRST TIME WHEN THEY CAN STAND ON THEIR OWN TWO LEGS IN SOCIETY.

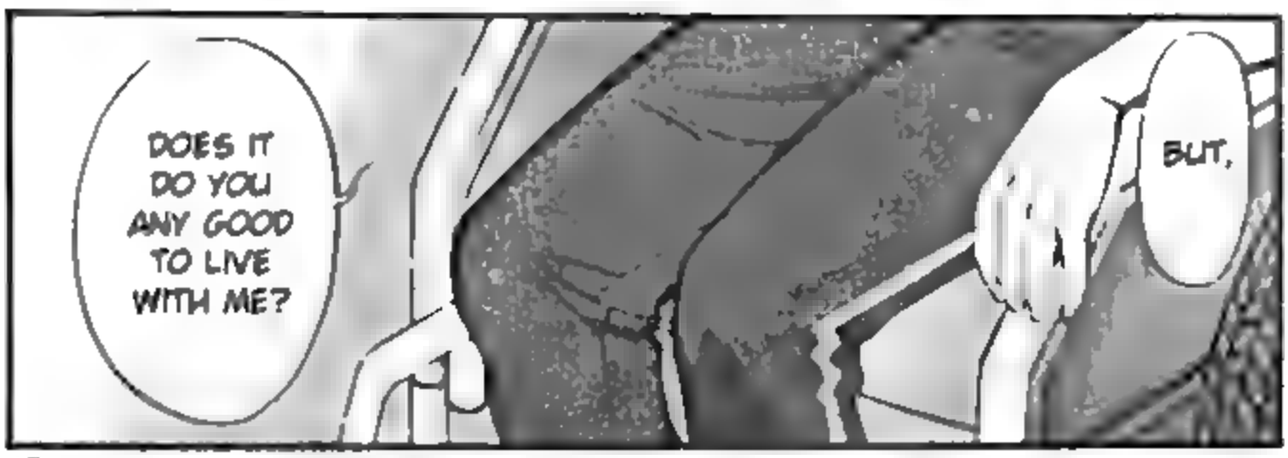
RIGHT,
JUST LIKE ME, WHO ACTED LIKE AN ADULT, UNAWARE THAT I WAS RELYING ON OTHER PEOPLE...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE WHO HASN'T BECOME AN ADULT TO LOVE SOMEONE ELSE.

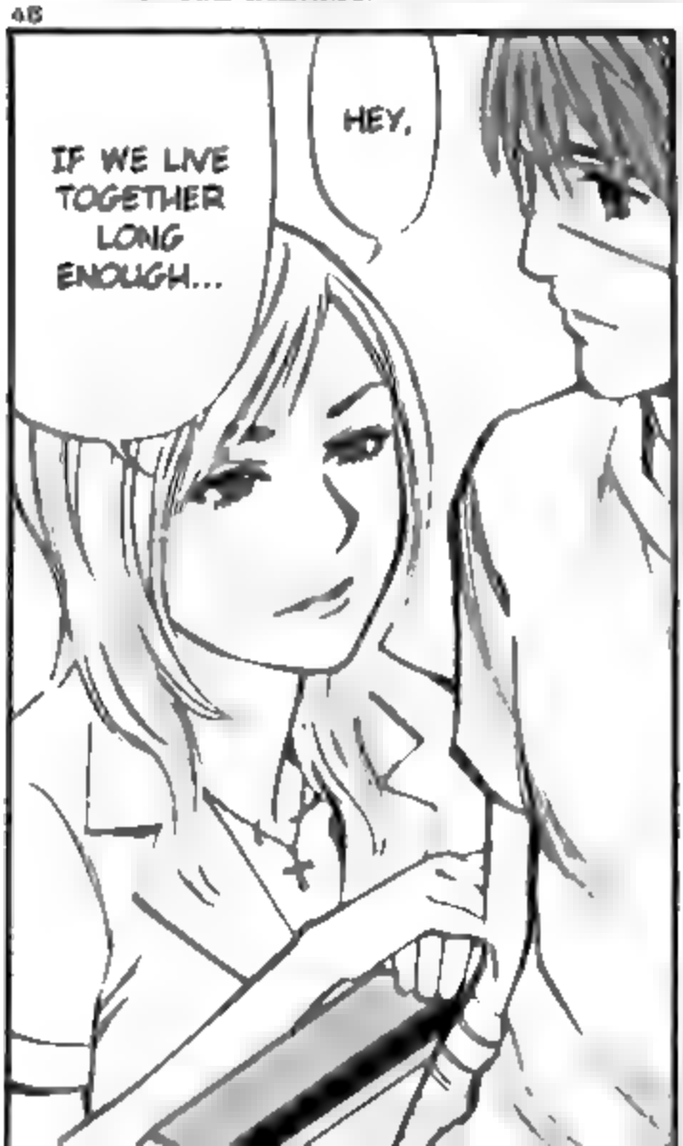
THAT'S PROOF THAT SHE ISN'T AN ADULT YET.
BECAUSE SHE'S AFRAID OF BEING ALONE.
SHE DEPENDS ON WHAT SHE CALLS 'FATED LOVE'...

YOU'VE ALSO BECOME AN ADULT.
SENT HER OFF.
THAT'S WHY YOU


WAIT FOR RENA?
WHY DON'T THE TWO OF US...

LET'S LIVE TOGE-THER AGAIN.

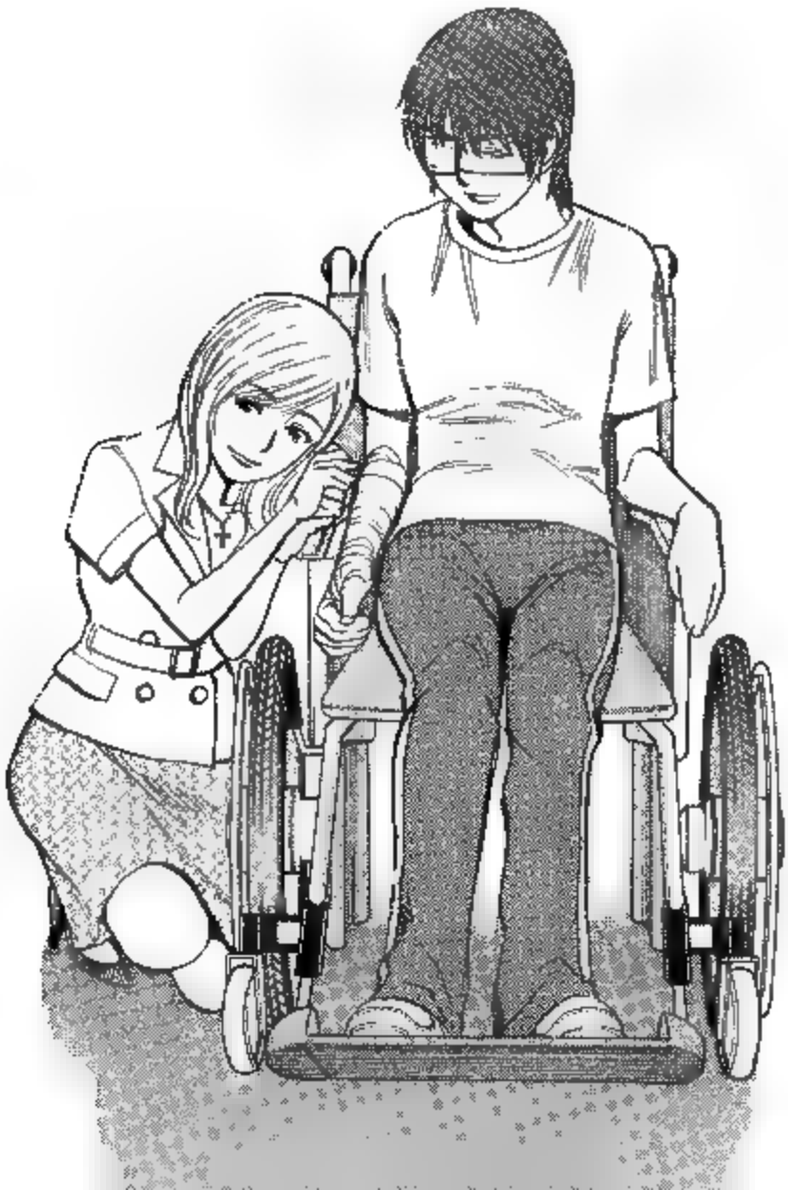

DOES IT DO YOU ANY GOOD TO LIVE WITH ME?
BUT,

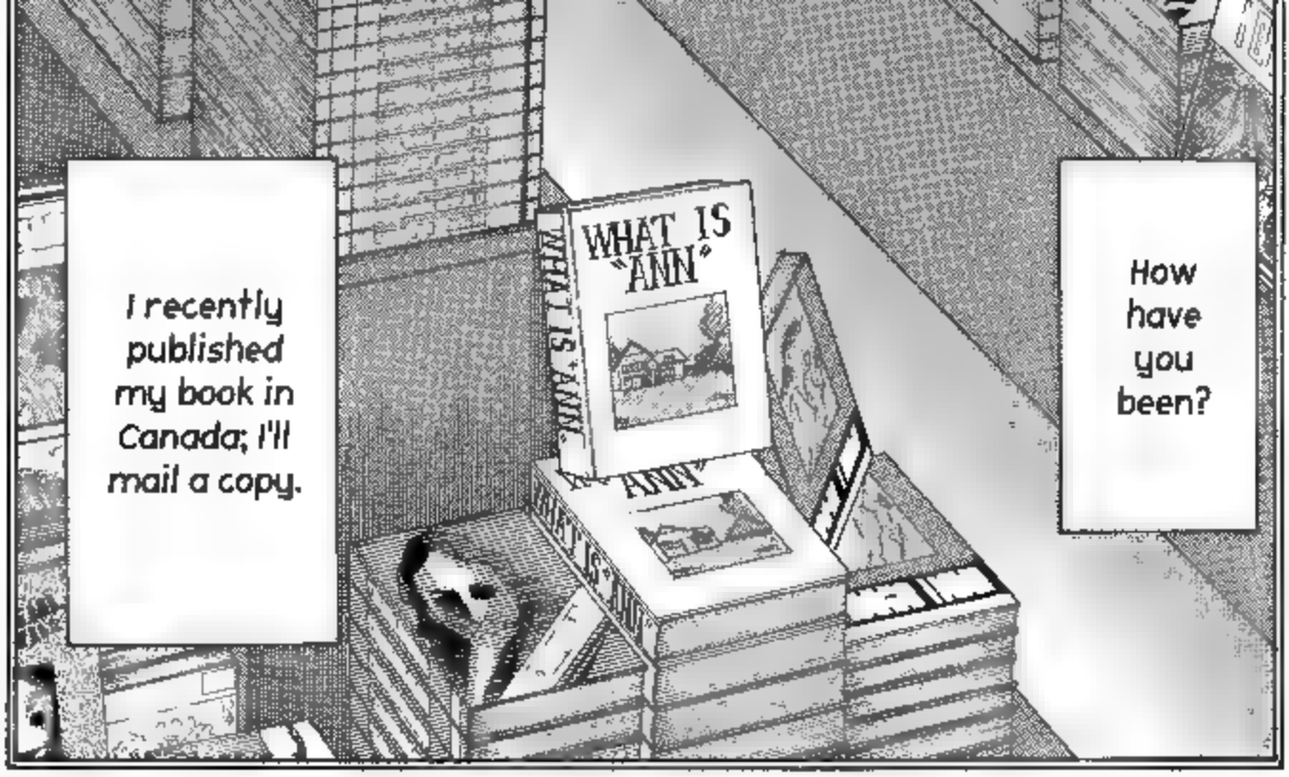

IF WE LIVE TOGETHER LONG ENOUGH...
HEY,

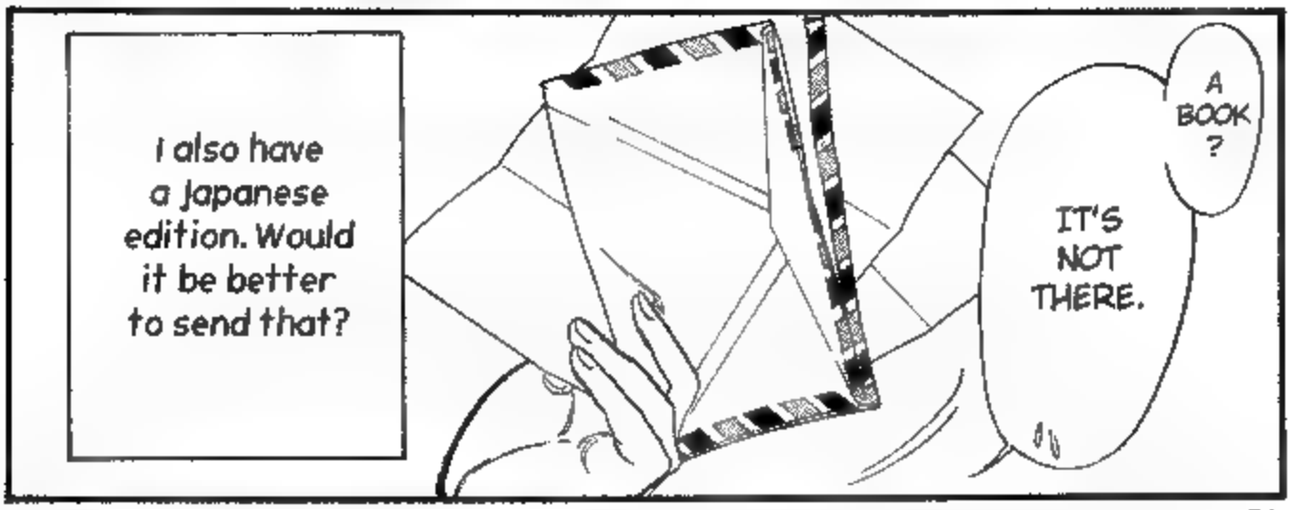
IT'S UP TO ME TO DECIDE IF IT'S GOOD OR BAD

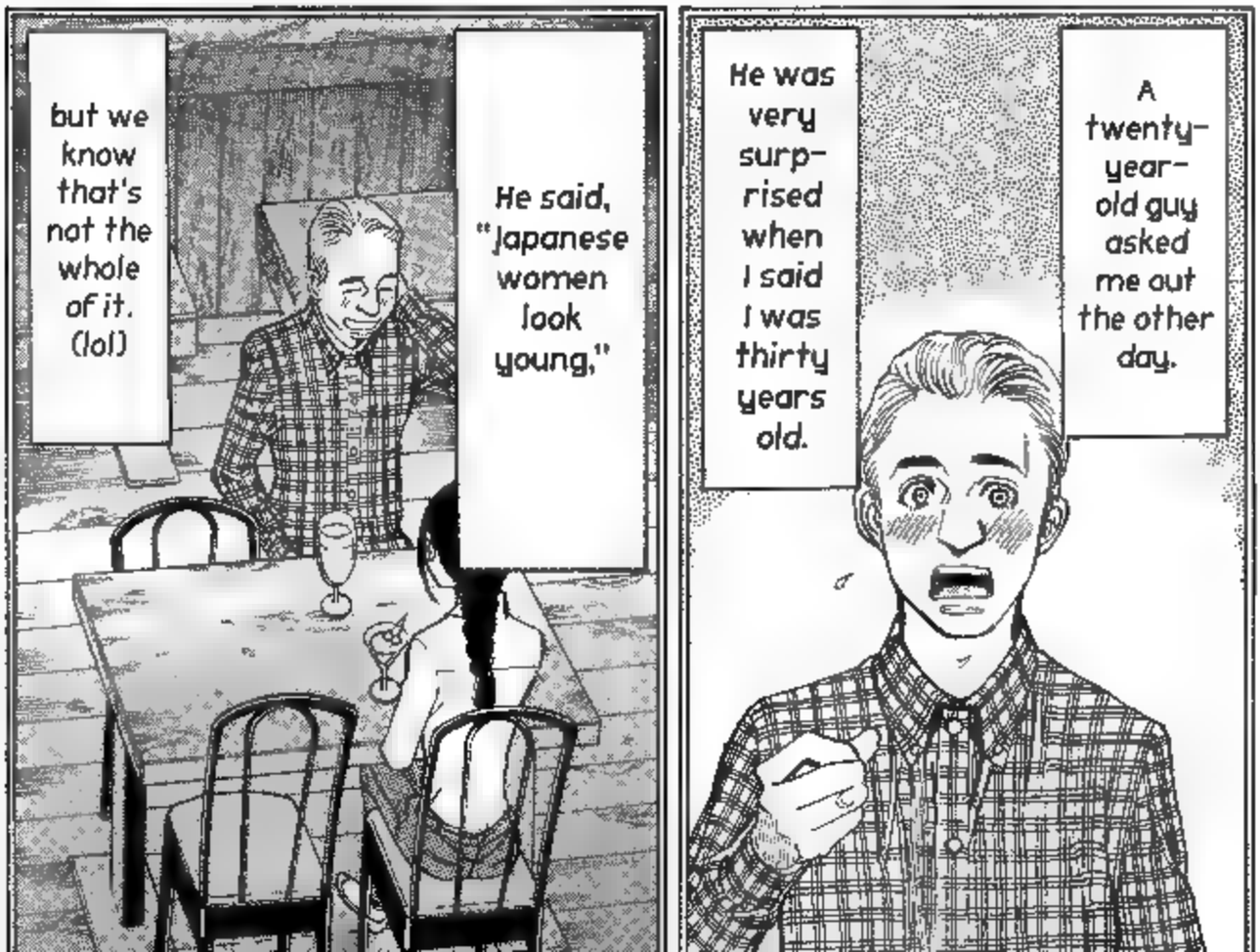
DON'T WORRY, BECAUSE I'M AN ADULT, STANDING IN SOCIETY ON MY OWN TWO LEGS

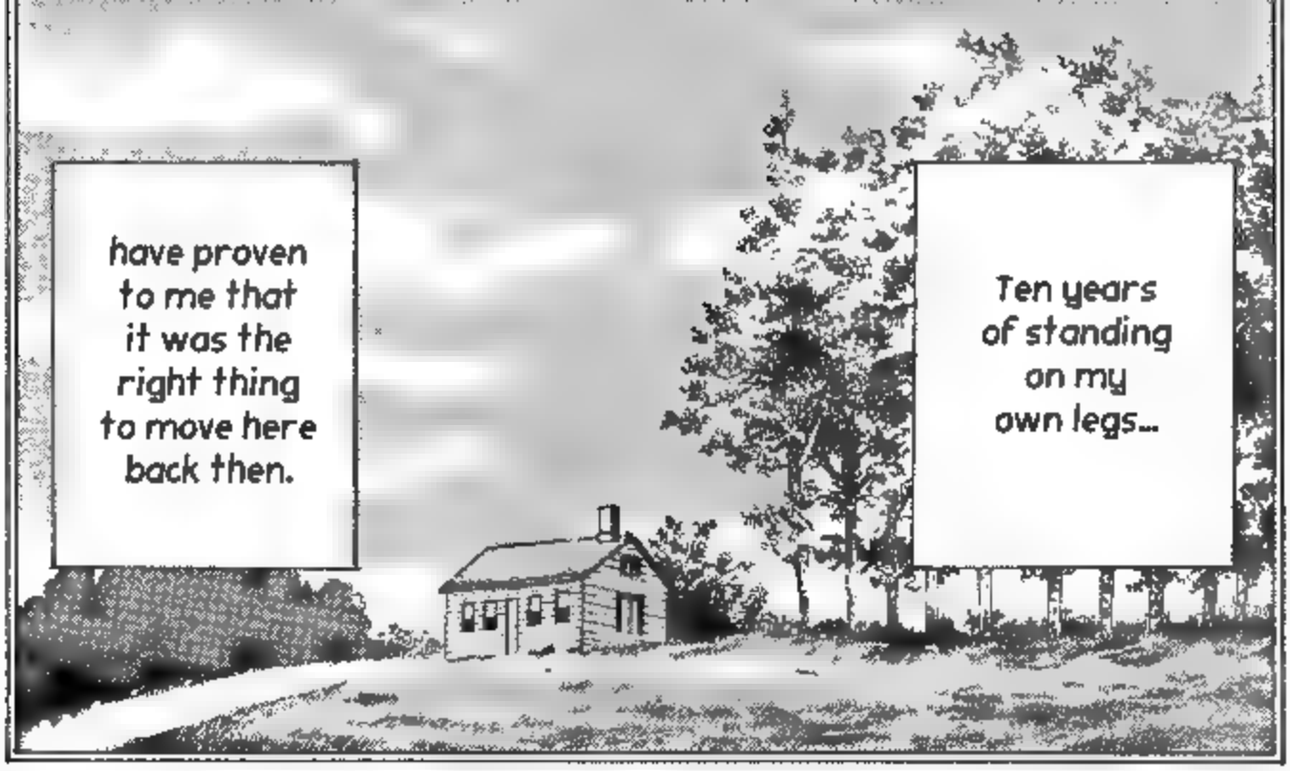
WON'T WE BE PROUD TO SAY 'WE'RE FATED PART-NERS'?
UNTIL ONE OF US DIES,




How have you been?
I recently published my book in Canada; I'll mail a copy.
WHAT IS "ANN"
ANN


I also have a Japanese edition. Would it be better to send that?
A BOOK?
IT'S NOT THERE.

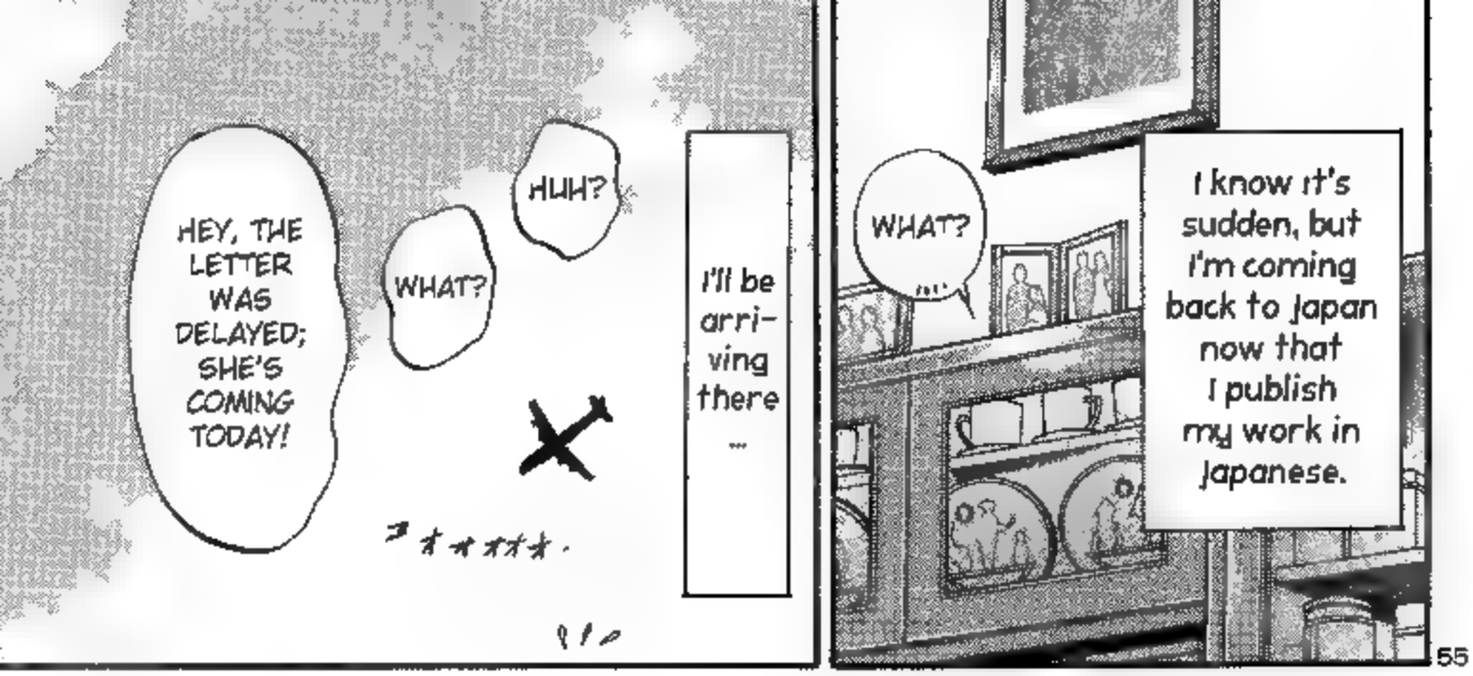

A twenty-year-old guy asked me out the other day.
He was very surprised when I said I was thirty years old.
He said, "Japanese women look young,"
but we know that's not the whole of it. (lol)


Ten years of standing on my own legs...
have proven to me that it was the right thing to move here back then.

Moreover, I'm most grateful for the one year that the three of us lived together,
which prompted me to move here, and supported me throughout my life here.

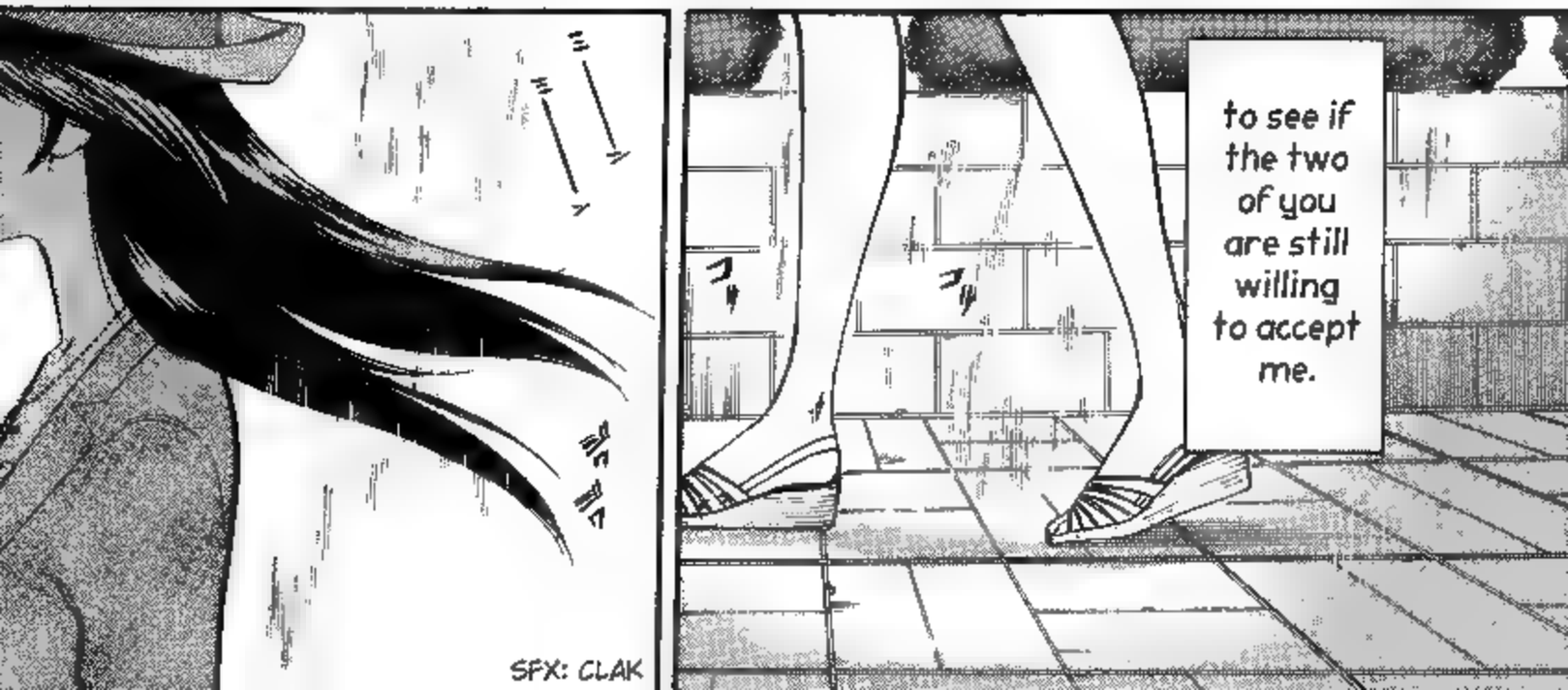
I think that my teenage days, that I was dying to be rid of,
were actually an important experience in making me who I am now.

Looking back, I meant it when I said I wanted to live with the two of you forever,
and I haven't changed my mind, even now, after ten years have passed.


I know it's sudden, but I'm coming back to Japan now that I publish my work in Japanese.
WHAT?
I'll be arriving there...
HUH?
WHAT?
HEY, THE LETTER WAS DELAYED; SHE'S COMING TODAY!
ゴオオオオ・

Have I become an adult?

I'm coming to Japan...



RENA!
WELCOME HOME!

I'M HOME!

キューピドの裏側（うらがわ）

Making of “Cupid Ⅱ”.

This is the part where the
author talks, or just says
random things. Please enjoy.

【Using the phone while driving 2】
Chapter 95

Talking on the phone
while driving is dangerous.
Never ever do it.

【Using the phone while driving 1】
Chapter 94

Agawa-kun's mobile phone might be hands-free, so there's no legal problem here. However, it's dangerous to use the navigation while driving, so please refrain.

【Employees from the department store】
Chapter 94

Actually, it's a little illogical that Kago and Gotou are here given how long it would take for them to gather, but this happens because I wanted them to make an appearance. I love these two characters~

【Rena's Phone Background】
Chapter 95

Rena uses the logo of Liddell, whose commercial she starred in, as her phone's background picture.

【Kase Eiko and Manager Shimatani】
Chapter 95

Unexpectedly, a number of readers have asked, "Is Shimatani homosexual?" While I was short of making it clear in the manga, the answer is a resounding "yes." While the way Kase Eiko lived - "Since nobody loves me, I won't love anyone." - is a possibility for Agawa-kun, Asou-san, and Rena-san if they hadn't met each other, the relationship between Manager Shimatani and the man who is his stepfather (a love that propels the former into insanity in the face of the death of the man he loved) is another possibility for the three of them in the future.

【A syringe with the vaccine to the CS enzyme】
Chapter 95

A pen-type injector like one for insulin, with a short needle when the cap is removed. By the way, it was part of my original design that Agawa-kun would appear as a ghost out of desperation when Rena was in the middle of a snowstorm in a remote land. I covered a period between summer and fall during the weekly serialization; I skipped to winter thanks to Young Sunday's discontinuation (smile of irony).

【Last Scene】 Chapter 95

Agawa-kun and Asou-san see Rena off so she can stand on her own two feet. Honestly, I once had in mind that this scene would be the ending scene. ...with Rena on a ship, of all things. (laugh)

【The Real Last Scene】
Chapter 95

However, as the serialization was reaching the last arc, my editor gave his opinion, "I want to see the grown-up Rena~"

Could it be... the wedding ceremony of Agawa-kun and Asou-san... in the photo? Even though I'm not always inclined to reveal everything in crystal clarity, the answer lies on the title page behind the book cover. (laugh)

Thank you for reading this manga.

Cleaning:
Zujids
Raws:
YandereS, Shiratori
Typesetting:
mesdagar
Translation:
anonymous preferred
Redraw:
Zujids
Proofreading:
Volandum

11

Sakuranbo Syndrome

By Kitazaki Saku